

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

London, Saturday-Sunday, November 28-29, 1998

No. 36,000

A Decision On Pinochet Is Not His, Blair Insists

Chile's Foreign Minister Is Told in London: Case Rests With Judiciary

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — Sticking to Britain's official hands-off policy in the Augusto Pinochet case, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Friday that he did not expect to be even "consulted" about it and Robin Cook, the foreign secretary, assured his Chilean counterpart that any decisions would be made free of political considerations.

Home Secretary Jack Straw, the British official responsible for deciding whether or not to go forward with a Spanish petition seeking the former Chilean dictator's extradition, obtained the extra time Friday that he had sought to make his decision. Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate Graham Parkinson postponed the hearing time days until Dec. 11 and said he expected General Pinochet in court then.

Spanish courts are seeking the extradition of the 83-year-old general to Madrid to stand trial on charges of genocide, terrorism and torture in the murders and "disappearances" of 3,178 people. He was arrested in London Oct. 16 and subsequently lost a legal effort in the House of Lords, England's highest court, to have himself declared immune to arrest because of his status as a former head of state.

Mr. Cook said Jose Miguel Insulza, Chile's foreign minister, had communicated his government's "strong view" that General Pinochet should be permitted to return home immediately. He said he had replied that the British government could not possibly interfere with what was a purely judicial matter.

"I explained that the next stage of the extradition process was in the hands of the Home Secretary," Mr. Cook said, and that this was not a matter for collective ministerial decision. Mr. Cook said in a statement.

He said the one-hour hearing had been "friendly" and that he assured the Chilean that "neither the original arrest nor subsequent steps had been politically motivated." Afterward, Mr. Insulza visited No. 10 Downing Street, where he met officials, but not the prime minister, and left a letter that a spokesman said would be passed on to the Home Office.

Mr. Straw has said he will not be seeing any national delegations or representatives of interest groups in de-

See PINOCHET, Page 4

Clinton Replies To Hyde Questions

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Friday answered the 81 questions put to him by the House Judiciary Committee chairman, Henry Hyde, about his affair with Monica Lewinsky, saying he regretted misleading people.

But in a letter accompanying the responses, the president's attorney, David Kendall, repeated his denial that Mr. Clinton had committed perjury, witness tampering, obstruction of justice or abuse of power — key elements of impeachment charges expected to be drawn up against him. Page 3.

The Dollar			
	Friday 4 PM	Previous Close	
DM	1.7127	1.7045	
Yen	123.04	121.705	
FF	5.7445	5.7138	
Scand	1.6538	1.661	
The Dow			
	Friday Close	Percent Change	
+18.80	5,838.08	+0.20%	
S&P 500			
+5.42	1,182.29	+0.46%	
Nasdaq			
+31.24	2,016.44	+1.57%	

Newsstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 B.D. Milla 55 c
Cyprus	C.E. 100 Milla 1,250 Milla
Danmark	17 DKR 12.50 CR
Sweden	12.00 FM 10.00 CR
Switzerland	2.08 Sfr 1.00 CR
Great Britain	UK £1.00 Saudi Arabia 10 SR
Egypt	5.50 S.A. 100 R18 Ind VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E. 10.00 DHR
Kenya	K. Sh. 150 U.S. M. (Est.) \$1.20
Kuwait	200 Fils 20.00 Milla



PARIS REBUTS EFFORT TO CHARGE KABILA — President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo arriving Friday at the National Assembly in Paris for the French-African summit meeting. Prosecutors turned down attempts by two groups to charge him for human rights violations. Page 4.

Will a 'People's Economy' Be Better?

Indonesia Promotes Cooperatives, but Critics Warn of Corruption

By Paul Blinstein
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — Struggling to recover from the devastation caused by the Asian financial crisis, the Indonesian government is moving to rid the economy of the "crony capitalism" that flourished here for decades — with a vengeance that some economists find worrisome.

The new buzzword is the "people's economy," and it stands for a government plan to end the economic dominance of the large conglomerates run by tycoons who enjoyed close ties to former President Suharto and his family.

Instead of conglomerates, the government of President B.J. Habibie is aiming at building an economic system of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In Indonesia, 1 percent has controlled 60 percent of the gross domestic product, said Adi Sasono, the cooperative minister and one of the government's most influential figures, referring to the small proportion of the population with economic power. "That is not a healthy

economic structure," Mr. Adi said. "Now the idea is to promote even playing fields. What we have to avoid is where the big players control everything."

The new approach was approved in broad terms at a special session of the 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly this month. The decision was overshadowed by student protests that ended in bloody confrontations with soldiers. But while it may sound like a refreshing shift from an era characterized by corruption and collusion, it is stirring considerable concern that Indonesia may be simply replacing one rotten system with another.

For one thing, the initiative is fraught with ethnic politics. Most of the largest conglomerates are run by members of the ethnic Chinese minority, whose entrepreneurial talents played a key role in the country's rapid economic growth over most of the past three decades.

The government denies that any ethnic group is being singled out. But many analysts fear that Mr. Habibie, who took over in May after mass protests forced Mr. Suharto to

See INDONESIA, Page 4

Singapore Puts On a Liberal Shine

Hoping to Be a Global Center, It Borrows Rival Hong Kong's Ways

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

SINGAPORE — When Lee Kuan Yew, the father of modern Singapore, wanted to transform this spit-and-polish outpost into a global financial center, he urged people here to mimic the freewheeling ways of Hong Kong.

Never mind that under Mr. Lee's strict rule, Singapore had made a virtue of being everything Hong Kong was not: clean, orderly, buttoned-down, an oasis of Asian values worlds away from the Western permissiveness of Hong Kong.

Yet in a series of speeches over the past year, Mr. Lee, the senior minister, and his son, Lee Hsien Loong, deputy prime minister, have called on regulators to use a lighter hand on Singapore's markets. This quickly became official policy.

"It's very difficult to decide to change policies when they are working," said Lee Hsien Loong, 46, a brisk former army general who also runs the powerful Monetary Authority and is expected to be the next prime minister. "But we got feedback from bankers and others that if you want to take the next stage up, then really you have to shift gears and allow more free play."

Few places on earth would set out to become more freewheeling as methodically as Singapore would. But

experts in Asia are not about to poke fun: They say that this combination of flexibility and dogged determination has enabled Singapore to steer a remarkably steady course through the Asian economic typhoon.

Although the Singapore economy finally slid into negative territory in the third quarter, it had held out longer than that of most of its neighbors. And several economists and analysts said that Singapore's strategy of cutting wages, allowing the currency to adjust downward and liberalizing the financial markets could mean that it will be in healthier shape after the crisis than the normally resilient Hong Kong.

While Hong Kong still has many advantages, Singapore is about to give it a run for its money. Singapore has introduced a futures contract based on the Hong Kong stock market that traders say is the most serious challenge yet to Hong Kong's status as the financial hub of East Asia.

"Singapore has been more streetwise than Hong Kong," said J. Mark Mobius, president of Templeton Emerging Markets Fund, which moved its headquarters from Hong Kong to Singapore because of its lower tax rates. "They've exhibited a better understanding of the crisis and sounder policy." William Overholt, director of Asia strategy at

See SINGAPORE, Page 4

Pope Sets Tone for 2000: Forgiveness

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ROME — For Roman Catholic sinners, the year 2000 offers a fast track to Heaven.

In a Papal Bull entitled "Incarnationis Mysterium" (Mystery of the Incarnation), Pope John Paul II formally proclaimed 2000 a Holy Year, and issued edicts that serve as a practical guide to spiritual salvation during the Jubilee.

The Pope announced in the document Friday that throughout the millennium

celebration, penitents who do a charitable deed or give up cigarettes or alcohol for a day can earn an "indulgence," that will eliminate time in purgatory. Indulgences are a form of church-granted amnesty that release penitents from certain forms of punishment.

The Medieval church sold indulgences, a practice that drove Martin Luther to rebel and begin the Reformation. They remain a source of intense debate between Protestants and Catholics, and since Vatican II the church has played down their importance.

By restoring indulgences to so prominent a position, John Paul II is making penitence a major theme of the millennium. He is also reaching out to conservatives in the church. But by broadening the ways believers can earn an indulgence beyond traditional Catholic rituals, the Pope is also trying to imbue indulgences with some of the ecumenical spirit he wants to lead the celebrations.

Parts of the papal document, which will be issued officially Sunday, dealt

See VATICAN, Page 4

Gently, China Flexes Strategic Muscles in Asia

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Outlining a strategic blueprint for Asia that differs sharply from the approach of the United States, Defense Minister Chi Haotian of China said Friday that security in the region could not be achieved by military alliances.

Making the first policy speech by a Chinese defense minister in Southeast Asia — where many countries view Beijing's growing power with some misgiving — General Chi sought to portray China as a peaceful giant that was a partner, not a threat, to the region.

But he also appeared to be warning other Asian nations that China was unhappy with the existing security order in which the United States and its allies, especially Japan, play a central role.

He made it clear that Beijing was determined to have a major say in developing new arrangements "based on mutual trust and common interest" that would supersede the network of alliances in which the United States plays a dominant role.

"Historical and immediate experiences have proved that security cannot be achieved by an increase in arms, nor by military alliances," General Chi

said. "To obtain lasting peace, it is imperative to cultivate a new concept of security and seek a new way to safeguard peace."

The development of China, he declared, "requires a lasting and stable environment of peace."

"China's defense buildup will not target any other country and will never constitute threats to any country. China will never seek to be a superpower and never seek hegemony."

The United States, in the latest edition of the East Asia Strategy Report, its strategic blueprint for the region, said

See ASIA, Page 7

Europeans Contest U.S. NATO Vision

Broader Alliance Role Opposed

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BRUSSELS — An American-led attempt to set down what NATO has become since the Cold War ended and define its goals for the next century is encountering European opposition on a number of issues, threatening to undermine a 50th-anniversary NATO summit meeting in Washington next year.

NATO diplomats said the Clinton administration had recently presented a very ambitious program for the April meeting, designed partly to convince Congress that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is still central to American security, raising European concerns that the United States is trying to turn NATO into a freewheeling global vehicle for its interests.

The summit meeting amounts to a critical watershed for NATO. It is destined to define NATO's new "Strategic Concept" after almost a decade of largely improvised adaptations to the post-Cold War world, setting down a doctrine that takes the allies a very long way beyond the commitment to mutual self-defense that lay at the core of the Washington Treaty of 1949.

But after a summer and fall largely consumed by the crisis in Kosovo, and in the light of a bold American agenda clearly conceived to constitute President Bill Clinton's legacy for the alliance, there is widespread concern at NATO headquarters that time is short and agreement far from assured.

At the root of the differences lies the American conviction that NATO should now be seen as "an alliance of interests" as much as one dedicated to the defense of a specific territory, and that those interests may in some instances push NATO into far-flung activities, for example to counter chemical and biological weapons, nuclear proliferation, or terrorism.

"Of course, when America talks of the defense of interests, and not just territories, it leads to continued suspicions that the United States is seeking to globalize NATO," a senior official said. "NATO is still Euro-Atlantic, but we should not artificially exclude what we might use NATO for."

A European official said that while the need to adapt NATO, and formalize the changes that have already taken place since 1989, was not in dispute, several European countries were concerned that Washington wanted to push the alliance too far beyond its core European commitments and might be exaggerating threats to justify this.

"The Americans have put a program on the table that calls for NATO to play a major role in controlling and counteracting weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, biological and chemical," he said. "But we worry that America may be creating a new threat perception that will scare our populations with visions of anthrax and gangrene while allowing NATO to become a global organization."

France, always concerned with what it sometimes calls "American hegemony" and keen to develop Europe's own defense capacities, and Germany, whose new "Red-Green" coalition of Social Democrats and environmentalists Greens has a broadly anti-militarist bent, are among the states wary of giv-

ing NATO too sweeping a mission, officials said. Russia, of course, is also deeply concerned.

In particular, officials said, a sharp conflict exists over America's determination to include in NATO's new "mission" or "vision" statement (the precise term is under discussion) a stipulation that the alliance may, in exceptional circumstances, act without a specific United Nations Security Council mandate.

In the absence of this margin for maneuver, American officials contend, NATO would effectively be placing itself at the mercy of a Russian or Chinese veto in the Security Council for any mission it wished to undertake, even in an overwhelming humanitarian crisis.

"The lesson of Kosovo is that we

See NATO, Page 7

Pyongyang Losing Edge To Invade, U.S. Asserts

By Paul Richter
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — North Korea's ability to overrun the South with conventional armed forces, a focus of U.S. military planning for almost five decades, is disintegrating in the face of the country's economic crisis, according to the Pentagon.

Amid crippling shortages of food and fuel, North Korea's ability to field and reinforce a mobile force of tanks and troops "has been largely undermined," a senior defense official said. As a result, he added, "any strategy they might have had to seize territory has been put in substantial jeopardy."

Since the end of the Korean War, the U.S. and South Korean militaries have maintained huge forces to repel an invasion that could involve tens of thousands of troops spilling across the Demilitarized Zone between the North and South.

Along with Iraq, North Korea has been the U.S. military's greatest worry in the post-Cold War world. And recently, as the North has weakened, defense officials have fretted that its isolated, Stalinist leadership might try to seize great chunks of southern territory in a final "lash-out" attack before seeking peace.

But the changing view of North Korean conventional forces does not mean that the United States intends to scale back its military support for South Korea, where it maintains 37,500 troops. This

See KOREA, Page 4

AGENDA



Kurdish women in hats bearing the portrait of the guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan, raising the victory sign Friday in Bonn after Germany said it would not seek extradition of Mr. Ocalan. Page 4.

Clinton Plans to Visit Gaza and Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton will travel to Gaza to address the Palestinian National Council and oversee the implementation of a critical element of the Wye River Middle East peace accord, the

White House announced Friday. The council is scheduled to meet Dec. 14 and reaffirm the revocation of clauses in the PLO charter that call for the destruction of Israel.

Mr. Clinton, who is to leave Washington Dec. 12, will visit Israel and the West Bank, make speeches to Israelis and Palestinians, and meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Netanyahu, meanwhile, cut short a trip abroad to deal with the Israeli Army's long-standing occupation of southern Lebanon. Page 7

Books	Page 8
Crossword	Page 8
Opinion	Page 6
Sports	Pages 20, 21

The Internet
The IHT online: www.ihonline.com

Amid Economic Crisis, Russia Lets Its Guard Down at Nuclear Facilities

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Tons of highly enriched uranium and plutonium at Russian scientific institutes and research facilities have been left more vulnerable to possible theft and diversion because of the country's economic crisis, according to experts from the United States who recently inspected some sites.

The specialists have expressed alarm about the buckling of the "human factor" in protecting nuclear materials since the Russian ruble was devalued Aug. 17, effectively slashing the meager salaries of nuclear plant workers and

guards and further draining funds available for security.

"The Russian economy is the world's greatest proliferation threat today," said William Potter, director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, who visited five Russian nuclear materials sites last month and has seen 10 sites over the past year.

"I think the situation is extremely dire," said Kenneth Luongo, a former U.S. Energy Department official who is now executive director of the Russian-American Nuclear Security Advisory Council, which seeks to promote U.S.-Russian cooperation on the issue. "We

have taken a gigantic step back to the beginning of the 1990s, when the Soviet Union collapsed and we worried about a breakdown of their security system."

Their concerns about the diminished protection were confirmed by other U.S. specialists—some of whom asked not to be identified by name—and echoed by a Clinton administration policymaker.

But Yevgeni Adamov, the minister of atomic energy in Russia, said, "I am not particularly worried" about "serious materials and their leakage."

"That does not mean lack of concern for preventing this from happening," he said, "but I have no worry about the present because these materials are

quite safe." But other Russian officials have acknowledged that the nuclear complex is suffering from the country's economic turmoil, including months-long wage arrears.

The Soviet Union is believed to have produced more than 1,200 tons of highly enriched uranium and 150 tons of plutonium. More than half of that material is contained in existing weapons, but an estimated 650 tons of weapons-usable material remains scattered across 11 time zones, according to the U.S. Energy Department. The material is located at civilian scientific centers and military research institutes.

Mr. Potter said a rogue state "would

be happy to get just tens of kilos" of highly enriched uranium or plutonium, a quantity that could be found at "dozens of facilities" in Russia.

Specialists have long maintained that obtaining weapons-grade fissile material is the hardest part of building a bomb. It was assumed that it would take a would-be nuclear state a decade or more to create its own fissile material for bomb-making and that the necessary facilities could be detected. But this barrier could be leapfrogged by purchasing or diverting material from Russia's vast and vulnerable warehouses.

The Soviet police state kept careful watch over nuclear materials, and the

workers in the nuclear complex were relatively well off. But the demise of the authoritarian system and the economic depravations of a young, struggling market economy have drastically changed the situation. In recent years, minor diversions of nuclear material have been discovered, and there may be others no one knows about.

The U.S. effort to secure Russia's fissile materials is centered in a \$137 million-a-year Energy Department program with the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, called "materials protection, control and accounting." It involves installing equipment to keep better track of bomb materials and providing training for Russian guards and workers.

This is just one part of a much larger, years-long drive by the West to help post-Soviet Russia control nuclear weapons. It includes a program to consolidate and dismantle warheads and delivery systems and an international drive to keep weapons scientists engaged in civilian work so they do not take their expertise to rogue states. Yet another initiative recently approved by Congress will seek to advance long-delayed conversion to other occupations in the "closed cities" where Soviet weapons were designed and built.

The United States is also buying 500 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons. The material to be diluted for use as power plant fuel. The United States and Germany have also committed to help Russia dispose of its leftover chemical weapons.

In a report this month to the North Atlantic Assembly, a forum of NATO legislators, Mr. Potter said, "I do not exaggerate when I say that many of the storage buildings which contain approximately 70,000 nuclear weapons components of highly enriched uranium and plutonium are bursting at their seams."

"Yet many of these buildings—flush with weapons-grade material—have no perimeter fences, armed guards, vehicle barriers, operational surveillance cameras and metal and radiation detectors at entrances," he added. "At some of these facilities the United States has installed motion detectors and other alarm systems, but they have been shut off by the guards who were disturbed by the high false-alarm rate."

"Unfortunately, even where there are functioning alarm systems, it is problematic if anyone will respond," he said, because guards who have not been paid for months "are supposed to be at posts which are unheated in below-freezing conditions."

The sophisticated equipment "cannot stand up to the current economic pressures," Mr. Potter said, recalling that failure to pay for electricity had led to power shutoffs in some locations and forced guards to turn off the monitoring systems. "We saw equipment that was not functional," he said.

"It doesn't matter how many video cameras, how many motion detectors you provide," he said. "If a person is not there, that, all this equipment is worthless."

Advisers Expect Yeltsin To Serve Rest of Term

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Kremlin aides said Friday that President Boris Yeltsin, now in the hospital with pneumonia, should be well enough to see out his remaining 18 months in office, barring a dramatic worsening in his health.

But, in a sign of mounting preoccupation with elections to be held once Mr. Yeltsin goes, a senior adviser said the Kremlin was ready to back efforts to rally demoralized and divided liberals into a common front to thwart a return of Communists to power.

Alarmed by the unsolved murder last week of the reformist politician Galina Starovoi, a group of liberals including two former prime ministers announced plans for a new center-right bloc.

Concentrating his energies on the present financial crisis, Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov unveiled cuts in sales and profit taxes intended to tempt Russians into declaring more of their income. But the tactic has left both his finance minister and Western analysts skeptical that Moscow can counter rampant tax evasion and fund its 1999 budget.

On Friday, the central bank approved a timetable and terms for foreigners to convert devalued ruble assets into hard currency. The Finance Ministry detailed cash repayments it was ready to make this year.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said at a news conference the president was in "satisfactory" condition and working on documents after being taken to the hospital with pneumonia over the weekend.

The spokesman, Dmitri Yakushkin, had earlier told Izvestia in an interview that Mr. Yeltsin could work on until mid-2000. He said he could not imagine aides advising the 67-year-old leader to retire, "unless there is some sudden worsening of his health."

Mr. Yakushkin said at a news conference Friday that the president suffered "several heart attacks" during his 1996 re-election campaign, which saw him defeat his Communist challenger, Gennadi Zyuganov. Previously,

the Kremlin had said Mr. Yeltsin suffered one "mild" heart attack days before his July 3 re-election.

"The strain was beginning to tell on Boris Nikolayevich and these emotional, psychological and physical strains are continuing," Mr. Yakushkin said.

Primakov Gets Support

Daniel Williams of The Washington Post reported earlier from Moscow:

The Kremlin has sent out fresh signals that Mr. Yeltsin's days in power are numbered, as a top official tagged Mr. Primakov as the prime candidate to replace the ailing Russian leader.

Yevgeni Savostyanov, a top Yeltsin aide, told reporters: "We understand quite well that any uncertainty in the matter of continuity of authority is extremely detrimental both at home and abroad. I believe that in the current situation, the candidacy of Yevgeni Primakov can and should be considered in that capacity."

His statements marked the second time in a week that Kremlin insiders have touted Mr. Primakov as the most desirable replacement should Mr. Yeltsin step down before his term ends in 2000. Only a few months ago, such suggestions would have been grounds for dismissal.

Mr. Yeltsin, however, has given no indication that he will leave office early, and he dislikes few things more than talk about his demise.

There are two ways Mr. Primakov could come to power. Under Russia's constitution, the prime minister takes over for three months should the president die or step aside. Then new elections would be held; he is already the front-runner.

Moreover, there is open talk Mr. Primakov could finish out the last two years of Mr. Yeltsin's term if the constitution were amended to create the post of vice president and he landed the job. The office was abolished in 1993 after the last vice president mutilated against Mr. Yeltsin. (Reuters, AFP)



Commuters at the Gare du Nord in Paris awaiting trains Friday. Service was reduced by about two-thirds.

TRAVEL UPDATE

New Train Strike Hits France

PARIS (Reuters) — France's second rail strike in a week was due to continue through Saturday with stoppages and slowdowns cutting services in many parts of the country, the state-owned SNCF railroad company said Friday.

The TGV high-speed trains to London, Brussels, Amsterdam and Cologne were among the few that the SNCF said would operate normally as the strike, begun as a 24-hour stoppage to press for more staff, rolled into the weekend. Most other TGV lines will run at a reduced service, while most conventional inter-city lines and urban commuter trains will be badly hit, SNCF added.

KLM and Alitalia Join Forces

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — KLM, the Dutch national airline, and its Italian counterpart, Alitalia, announced a far-reaching global alliance Friday under which they will merge their passenger and cargo activities.

The alliance will come into effect in 1999 and is dependent on the substantial privatization of Alitalia by June 2000. Alitalia will also join KLM's partnership with the U.S. airline Northwest, opening up the North Atlantic market to the Italian carrier.

The joint venture will also see the first European multihub system, based on the three airports of Amsterdam-Schiphol, Rome Fiumicino and the newly constructed Milan Malpensa.

Full U.S. Visa Service in Nairobi

NAIROBI (AP) — The U.S. Embassy said Friday that it would restore all visa services next week for the first time since a terrorist bomb destroyed the embassy on Aug. 2. The consular section reopened at a new location Nov. 12 but has only provided visas to students, whose cases were seen as the most urgent. The embassy said that, as of Monday, it would expand its visa services to applicants for all classifications of nonimmigrant visas, including business and tourist visas.

Applicants must make an appointment by telephone. For security reasons, they will not be allowed to bring friends or relatives, baggage or packages to the new consular offices, in a Nairobi suburb.

Nepal will set up a mountaineering museum with financial help from six Japanese alpine organizations, officials said Friday. The museum, to be located in Pokhara, will display records concerning the Himalayas as well as mountaineering gear, photographs and other alpine-related exhibits. (Reuters)

Dublin Drug Dealer Is Convicted Of Prominent Journalist's Murder

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — A Dublin drug dealer was convicted by a three-judge panel on Friday of the 1996 murder of Veronica Guerin, a prominent journalist known for her aggressive reporting on Dublin criminals.

Paul Ward, 34, who denied helping to kill Ms. Guerin, admitted that he knew drug dealers who planned to do it, was sentenced to life in prison. Normally, there is no parole before 14 years.

There was no jury because the case was tried in the Special Criminal Court, established out of fear that criminals, and paramilitary terrorists, could intimidate jurors.

Ms. Guerin, 37, was shot five times in the chest on June 26, 1996, as she sat in her car at a traffic light on the outskirts of Dublin. The killers rode a motorcycle and used a Magnum 357 pistol.

Mr. Ward was accused of disposing of the gun and the motorcycle. His trial was the first of several men suspected by the police of having been involved. The alleged shooter and motorcycle driver have been arrested and face trials in the spring. A third man, the reported head of the drug gang, is in England fighting an extradition order. The names of the three are widely known, but the court has forbidden reporters to make them public. Some have ignored the order.

Mr. Ward's girlfriend, Vanessa Meehan, is the sister of one of the men in jail in the case, who drove the motorcycle, according to the police. The shooter, they say, was a professional killer.

The chief government witness against Mr. Ward was a fellow-drug dealer, Charles Bowden, who testified that he and Mr. Ward made about \$500,000 each selling cannabis in a two-year period. Mr. Bowden, who was placed in a witness protection program, said Mr. Ward was intimately involved with the planning and execution of the crime.

The court decision, read for two hours on Friday morning by Justice Robert Barr, first attacked as unproved assertions by the police that Mr. Ward had confessed to getting rid of the gun and motorcycle. The judge said that the police had put unjust psychological pres-

sure on him, and that there was evidence they beat him around the neck. The police acknowledged that they had failed to videotape or record the alleged confession and had lost the notes of its details.

But the judge went on to deny that Mr. Bowden was influenced by his gaining immunity from prosecution and placement in the witness protection program.

Ms. Guerin, who worked for the Sunday Independent newspaper to expose organized crime, was the first European to win the International Press Freedom Award from the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Rail Worker Is Jailed For Some Heavy Theft

Agence France-Press

LONDON — A British rail worker was sentenced Friday in the theft of 4 locomotives, 3 passenger cars, 30 freight cars and 3 service cars.

Barry Daly, 43, nicknamed the "Fat Controller" after a character in the Thomas the Tank Engine stories for children, perpetrated an elaborate paperwork fraud to steal the equipment.

Mr. Daly said he intended to sell the engines and cars to railroad enthusiasts, including Pete Waterman, a pop impresario whose trust preserves trains from the 1950s and 1960s. But he never delivered.

A court in Chester, England, sentenced Mr. Daly to 27 months in prison. He was working as a depot supervisor at Crewe in central England when he carried out the thefts from January 1996 to January 1998.

Mr. Waterman said Mr. Daly came under suspicion about a year ago, when railroad stock for which the trust had paid more than £400,000 (\$68,000) was not delivered. "We were absolutely mortified when we found out this stuff wasn't his to sell," Mr. Waterman said.

Mr. Daly also admitted the theft of £42,900 from the Waterman Railway Heritage Trust and the theft of £1,000 from another railroad enthusiast.

BRIEFLY

German Tax Plan Is Assailed

BONN — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's government ran into fresh criticism Friday over tax reform plans, just hours after reaching a deal with regional states.

Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine agreed Thursday evening with ministers from the regional states that they would be compensated in full for revenue they will lose because of government plans to stop taxing low-income jobs.

But Jochen Dieckmann, the head of the German town councils association, said, "We can't be happy because we don't know how much of the compensation the states are getting will come to us."

The Free Democrats, calling the formula for compen-

sation a "tax monster," said it was complicated and unnecessary. (Reuters)

Refugee Boat Rammed Off Italy

BRINDISI, Italy — A speeding motorboat with smugglers at the helm crashed into a dinghy carrying ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo on Friday, killing three would-be immigrants, including a baby.

Four other Kosovars were missing and feared dead. Ten refugees managed to swim to a nearby oil platform. Italy's coast guard later accompanied the group ashore, taking three people who were suffering from exposure to a hospital. The smugglers, who appeared unhurt, sped away from the scene. (AP)

WEATHER

Forecast for Sunday through Tuesday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe				North America				Asia			
Country	High	Low	Wind	Country	High	Low	Wind	Country	High	Low	Wind
Algeria	68	48	SE 10	Canada	55	35	SE 10	China	65	45	SE 10
Austria	55	35	SE 10	USA	55	35	SE 10	India	85	65	SE 10
Belgium	55	35	SE 10	Alaska	45	25	SE 10	Indonesia	85	65	SE 10
Denmark	55	35	SE 10	Arizona	65	45	SE 10	Japan	65	45	SE 10
France	55	35	SE 10	California	65	45	SE 10	Korea	65	45	SE 10
Germany	55	35	SE 10	Colorado	65	45	SE 10	Malaysia	85	65	SE 10
Greece	55	35	SE 10	Connecticut	55	35	SE 10	Philippines	85	65	SE 10
Ireland	55	35	SE 10	Delaware	55	35	SE 10	Singapore	85	65	SE 10
Italy	55	35	SE 10	Florida	55	35	SE 10	Taiwan	65	45	SE 10
Japan	65	45	SE 10	Georgia	55	35	SE 10	Thailand	85	65	SE 10
Korea	65	45	SE 10	Idaho	55	35	SE 10	Vietnam	85	65	SE 10
Malaysia	85	65	SE 10	Illinois	55	35	SE 10				
Philippines	85	65	SE 10	Indiana	55	35	SE 10				
Singapore	85	65	SE 10	Iowa	55	35	SE 10				
Taiwan	65	45	SE 10	Kansas	55	35	SE 10				
Thailand	85	65	SE 10	Kentucky	55	35	SE 10				
Vietnam	85	65	SE 10	Louisiana	55	35	SE 10				
				Maine	55	35	SE 10				
				Maryland	55	35	SE 10				
				Massachusetts	55	35	SE 10				
				Michigan	55	35	SE 10				
				Minnesota	55	35	SE 10				
				Mississippi	55	35	SE 10				
				Montana	55	35	SE 10				
				Nebraska	55	35	SE 10				
				Nevada	55	35	SE 10				
				New Hampshire	55	35	SE 10				
				New Jersey	55	35	SE 10				
				New Mexico	55	35	SE 10				
				New York	55	35	SE 10				
				North Carolina	55	35	SE 10				
				Ohio	55	35	SE 10				
				Oklahoma	55	35	SE 10				
				Pennsylvania	55	35	SE 10				
				Rhode Island	55	35	SE 10				
				South Carolina	55	35	SE 10				
				South Dakota	55	35	SE 10				
				Tennessee	55	35	SE 10				
				Texas	55	35	SE 10				
				Utah	55	35	SE 10				
				Vermont	55	35	SE 10				
				Virginia	55	35	SE 10				
				Washington	55	35	SE 10				
				West Virginia	55	35	SE 10				
				Wisconsin	55	35	SE 10				
				Wyoming	55	35	SE 10				

A two-month trial subscription. Save up to 60%

Try a special, low cost 2-month trial subscription to the International Herald Tribune to enjoy delivery to your home or office every morning AND save up to 60% off the newsstand price.

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	2 MONTHS NEWSSTAND PRICE	2 MONTHS OFFER PRICE	SAVING OFF COVER PRICE
ALGERIA	DZD	1,650	650	55%
ARGENTINA	ARS	3,200	1,300	59%
AUSTRIA	S	3,200	1,300	59%
BELGIUM	FRF	3,200	1,300	59%
BRAZIL	CR\$	3,200	1,300	59%
CHINA	Y	3,200	1,300	59%
FRANCE	FRF	3,200	1,300	59%
GERMANY	DM	3,200	1,300	59%
GREAT BRITAIN	£	3,200	1,300	59%
HONG KONG	HK\$	3,200	1,300	59%
INDONESIA	RP	3,200	1,300	59%
JAPAN	¥	3,200	1,300	59%
KOREA	₩	3,200	1,300	59%
Malaysia	RM	3,200	1,300	59%
Philippines	P	3,200	1,300	59%
SINGAPORE	S\$	3,200	1,300	59%
Spain	PTA	3,200	1,300	59%
Switzerland	SFR	3,200	1,300	59%
Taiwan	N	3,200	1,300	59%
Thailand	B	3,200	1,300	59%
USA	\$	3,200	1,300	59%

FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE

Yes, I would like to start receiving the International Herald Tribune.
☐ My check is enclosed (payable to the IHT)
 Change my: ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ VISA ☐ Access ☐ MasterCard ☐ Eurocard
 For EU and Asian prices, credit cards will be charged in French francs at current rates.
 Card No: _____ Exp. Date: _____
 Signature: _____
 For business orders, indicate your VAT No. (IHT VAT Number H0743202126)
 Mr/Ms/Ms Family Name: _____
 First Name: _____ Job Title: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City/Coder: _____

Iraq Rebuffs Clinton Over Documents on Toxic Arms

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BAGHDAD — Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sahhaf says Iraq rejects the conditions set by President Bill Clinton after calling off the Nov. 14 military strikes on Iraq.

He said Iraq would turn down any request by the chief UN weapons inspector, Richard Butler, that is unrelated to disarmament or that jeopardizes Iraqi security.

In a television interview broadcast late Thursday, Mr. Sahhaf said the government was committed only to a UN resolution that linked the removal of sanctions to a certification by UN weapons inspectors that Iraq was free of weapons of mass destruction. The sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Sahhaf, referring to Mr. Butler, said, "This wretched person now thinks he has the backing of the United States of America in accordance with the points raised by its president."

Iraq evaded the military strikes by allowing the resumption of inspections by the United Nations Special Commission after a two-week hiatus.

Mr. Sahhaf said Mr. Butler and the United States were mistaken if they believed that Iraq's decision to cooperate gave them the right to obtain "a yes" answer from Iraq to every demand. But the foreign minister quickly added that Iraq was committed to cooperating with the Special Commission.

Cooperation with the inspectors was one of the conditions that Mr. Clinton laid out in calling off the strikes. He also demanded that Iraq provide the inspectors all documents they need.

Mr. Butler has asked for papers that he says are related to Iraq's biological and chemical weapons programs. Iraq says that most of the documents in question do not exist and that those in its possession will not be handed over for national security reasons.

According to Iraqi officials, the Special Commission has stepped up the pace of daily site visits since resuming work Nov. 18 and has carried out dozens of "surprise" inspections, with Iraq's full cooperation.

But Mr. Butler said last week that intrusive inspections were still "three or four weeks" away. (AP, AFP)



RUSH IS ON — Shoppers crowding a Wal-Mart in Windsor, New Jersey, at dawn Friday for the hottest item of the holiday shopping season: the Furby, a furry, gremlin-like talking doll. Some parents, worried about short supply, started lining up in the middle of the night.

Iraq Crisis Frustrates Arabs

Jordanians Point to Intransigence of Israel And Condemn U.S. Over 'Double Standard'

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

AMMAN, Jordan — From her jewelry shop on a busy street here, Iran Khalidi is watching the confrontation between Iraq and the United States with growing frustration.

Like many people in Jordan and across the Arab world, she has nothing good to say about Saddam Hussein. But she is angry that Western countries threaten to punish the Iraqi leader for defying United Nations resolutions while, she said, "they just stand by as Israel does the very same thing."

"Absolutely there is a double standard, and it makes us very angry," she said from behind a counter filled with silver bracelets and earrings. "When the UN demands that Israel withdraw from occupied territories and Israel refuses, the world does nothing. But with Saddam, he must do what the UN says or he is bombed. It is so very unfair."

The signing last month of a new accord between Israel and Palestinian leaders, and the resulting turnover of some occupied land to Palestinian control, appears to have had little effect on the widespread perception in Jordan that Israel enjoys a form of international impunity.

"If you tell the Arab man on the street that Saddam is a murderer, he will agree," said a longtime adviser to King Hussein of Jordan who asked not to be identified. "But he will also ask you when the United States ever forced Israel to accept a Security Council resolution. This is what our people think. There is a sense of injustice."

Israeli leaders concede that they have not fully carried out Security Council resolutions demanding that they return more occupied land to Arabs and refrain from building settlements on such land. But they say they cannot do so for security reasons.

Officials in many Arab countries desperately hope that Baghdad will cooperate with UN weapons inspectors to head off a U.S.-led attack. Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia are among countries that have publicly urged him to do whatever is necessary to satisfy the inspectors.

But while Western powers see inspections as a way to weaken Iraq, some Arab leaders hope compliance will ultimately free Iraq of sanctions and allow it to rebuild its conventional military power.

"Many Arab countries do not fear Iraq at all," said Radwan Abdullah, a former dean of political science at Jordan University.

"They think Saddam is a dictator and deserves to be punished," he said. "But they want Iraq strong enough to be a balance against Israel and Turkey and Iran, although of course not so strong that he can dominate the whole region."

Few Jordanians believe that air strikes against Iraq would produce any positive result.

Iraqi opposition groups say that with the millions of dollars that the United States and Britain have promised them, their prospects of toppling Mr. Saddam are bright. But many independent analysts of Arab politics are doubtful.

"These opposition people are very nice, very civilized," a European ambassador based in Amman said. "But they don't even talk to each other, much less work together."

"As for the Arab masses, they may not sympathize with Saddam but they do sympathize with Iraq, which they see as a victim of American aggression."

Clinton Replies to 81 Hyde Questions

President Again Denies Misleading Grand Jury on Lewinsky

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Friday answered the 81 questions put to him by the House Judiciary Committee, asserting that his grand jury testimony on Monica Lewinsky "was not false and misleading."

The whole furor over his attempts to conceal his relationship with the former White House intern "long ago ceased to be primarily a legal or political issue," the president said.

"I hope these answers will contribute to a speedy and fair resolution to this matter," Mr. Clinton wrote to the committee.

In response to several questions in which the committee chairman, Henry Hyde, asked the president to admit or deny giving false testimony under oath — when he swore that Ms. Lewinsky gave him gifts only "once or twice," and when he testified about not knowing that Ms. Lewinsky had been subpoenaed as a witness in the Paula Jones sex harassment case — the president resolutely defended himself.

"That testimony was not false and misleading," is a sentence repeated several times throughout the 34 signed pages that Mr. Clinton submitted to Congress on Friday afternoon.

His lawyer, David Kendall, wrote to Mr. Hyde separately, emphasizing "the president did not commit or suborn perjury, tamper with witnesses, obstruct justice or abuse power." Mr. Kendall promised the committee that another memo in Mr. Clinton's defense was in the works.

On one central allegation of asking his personal secretary, Betty Currie, to conceal evidence in the Jones case, Mr. Clinton responded, "I never told Ms. Currie to take possession of gifts I had given Ms. Lewinsky."

As for vouching under oath for the truthfulness of Ms. Lewinsky's own sworn denials of a sexual relationship, Mr. Clinton said he believed that he had had an advance look at Ms. Lewinsky's affidavit and that he verified its truthfulness because they were both using a definition of "sexual relations" that in-

cluded only intercourse.

Mr. Clinton lumped together a half-dozen questions about meetings with his aides and his denials to them in the first days after the Lewinsky allegations surfaced last January. To all of those questions, Mr. Clinton responded: "I misled people about this relationship. I have repeatedly apologized for doing so."

After a round of golf on Friday morning, Mr. Clinton

finalized the document and sent it to Capitol Hill — three weeks after Mr. Hyde asked the long list of questions about the president's truthfulness in the Lewinsky affair.

White House aides said in advance that Mr. Clinton's responses would closely track his grand jury testimony and public denials of wrongdoing in the furor that has led to a House impeachment inquiry on possible charges of perjury

and obstruction of justice.

Mr. Hyde, Republican of Illinois, who first relayed the 81 questions on Nov. 5, wrote Mr. Clinton on Wednesday and demanded that he respond by Monday or face a subpoena. But the White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said the Clinton family's decision to return from their holiday at Camp David was unrelated to the yet-unanswered questions.

POLITICAL NOTES

Hard Road for Censure Advocates

WASHINGTON — The idea of censuring President Bill Clinton for his conduct in the Monica Lewinsky scandal, rather than impeaching him, is steadily gaining momentum in the House.

That development reflects the awareness among lawmakers of both parties that the votes to impeach Mr. Clinton on even a single perjury count are in doubt. House Democrats in particular support censure as a means of condemning Mr. Clinton's misconduct without removing him and of shielding themselves from Republican criticism that they are being too lenient.

But it is not clear whether supporters of censure can build a majority for their option. Moreover, the Republican leaders have the power to prevent a vote on censure, which they might do if they were to perceive that it would strengthen the chances of impeachment.

Many of the 228 Republicans in the current Congress — perhaps more than 100 of them — might vote against censure, senior Republican aides say, because they consider it either insufficient or unconstitutional. So a majority of the 206 Democrats and single independents would most likely have to hold firm to win passage of a censure resolution.

There are serious cracks within the Democratic ranks. Many of the 35 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, for example, oppose any punishment of the president, saying he is a victim of a biased investigation by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel. Other liberal Democrats speak similarly.

But senior Democratic aides express confidence that the party leaders would prevail among their rank and file by making an impassioned argument for unity. (NYT)

Liberal Isn't Shy About 2000 Bid

WASHINGTON — Publicly, Vice President Al Gore refuses to acknowledge the obvious: that he is running for president in 2000. Other Democratic and Republican aspirants are also playing coy.

Not Senator Paul Wellstone: The liberal Democrat from Minnesota, a second-term senator and former political science professor, was the first to establish an "exploratory committee" as an initial step for a presidential campaign. It has helped finance his travels as part of his drive to build support.

Recently, Mr. Wellstone wrote to Democrats around the country soliciting funds for his committee and sounding out populist themes for a campaign.

"The American people deserve leadership that comes to grips with bread-and-butter economic issues and takes on powerful interests," he wrote. "The American people deserve a foreign policy that truly reflects our democratic ideals and places human rights at its center." (NYT)

AMERICAN TOPICS

AIDS Parade Just as Valid As Yankees', Judge Rules

A federal judge in New York has ruled that a parade through lower Manhattan marking World AIDS Day can go forward, saying that the policy cited by city officials to deny a parade permit was unconstitutional.

Judge Harold Baer Jr. said the city's refusal to permit the parade Tuesday on the grounds that it would be disruptive hinted at discrimination by a city that has allowed three ticker-tape parades since October.

"Who is to say that celebrating the Yankee World Series victory is a more or less extraordinary event than the commemoration of World AIDS Day?" he wrote. "After all, it is presently estimated that 30.6 million people are living with HIV or AIDS worldwide."

Michael Hess, the city's chief lawyer, disagreed, saying, "To say that extraordinary events like the Yankee victory parade and the John Glenn astronaut parade should be treated equally with any group that wants to conduct a parade, we think, is not the right interpretation" of the constitutional guarantee of free speech. He said the city probably would appeal.

Meanwhile, a plan to raise a Christmas tree adorned with condoms in the Central Park skating rink as part of an AIDS-awareness event has been canceled. A Roman Catholic group and others had questioned whether it was possible to cover a Christian symbol in contraceptives in a tasteful way.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called the plan "one of the most idiotic ideas I've ever heard of."

A Parks Department official said parents might not want their children to see a condom-bedecked tree. But

that, said sponsors of the event, was precisely the point.

Short Takes

In more than 30 states and scores of cities, this week was observed as Bible Week in recognition of "the historical role of the Bible in American culture and history," as one proponent put it. But many people in Gilbert, Arizona, viewed it as an unwise act, possibly an unconstitutional mixing of church and state, when their mayor, Cynthia Durham, proclaimed a Bible Week for Gilbert. Backed by the American Civil Liberties Union, they are suing to nullify her proclamation, and a similar one by Governor Jane Hull. Ms. Durham and Ms. Hull say they will fight the challenge.

The phones will be busy late next month at the National Runaway Switchboard, a federally funded toll-free hot line for troubled youths. Twice as many calls come in during the week after Christmas as during the rest of the month, reports The Atlantic Monthly. Hot line officials say family strife, reined in during the holiday, often erupts shortly afterward.

No one knows how many runaways and homeless children there are in the United States, though the figure is believed to exceed a million. The hot line collaborates with the Greyhound bus line to give runaways tickets home.

A 77-year-old Florida man with a sleepwalking habit awoke recently to find himself up to his snout in alligator. When James Curran, of Palm Harbor, wandered from home, he stumbled into a pond and awoke in several feet of water, his legs stuck in the mud. Several alligators, some longer than 3 feet, came to visit, he said. He fended them off with his cane — sleepwalkers, take note — until neighbors heard his cries and summoned police. Mr. Curran suffered no serious injury.

Brian Knowlton

Away From Politics

• The U.S. Postal Service lost \$84.7 million attempting to develop 19 new products it hopes will compensate for the mail it is losing to new forms of electronic communication. (WP)

• A death row inmate escaped Friday from a prison outside Huntsville, Texas, by hiding in a recreation yard, bounding over two fences and avoiding shots fired by a guard. (AP)

• The historic Northwestern Pacific Railroad was ordered closed by the Federal Railroad Administration because of safety risks and its threat to the environment. (AP)

Parillon & Lina
RESTAURANT

Philippe Parillon's culinary creations feature the best products available daily on French markets, adding authenticity with a refined expression of rich flavors.

WYONE

70, Avenue des Champs Elysees - 75008 Paris - Tel. 01 42 45 85 10 - Fax 01 42 45 76 22

Thursday

TRIBTECH

TribTech explores and explains the breakthroughs that drive technological achievement in the Information Age, as they transform business strategies around the world and bring excitement and entertainment to daily life at home. Revolutionary ideas, fresh applications, hot new products, time-saving software, cutting-edge gadgets — you'll find out about it in TribTech.

Every Thursday in the International Herald Tribune.

International Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

The Golden Bull

"All the people said to one another 'This is the god [the golden bull] that brought us out of Egypt.' ...

He melted the idol the people had made and he ground it into dust.

Moses knew that the people were out of control... and had made fool of themselves."

EXODUS, Chapter 32

مراكش
MARRAKESH
ENTERPRISES

617 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
U.S.A.
(202) 393-9393

As African Talks Start, Paris Rebuffs Effort to Charge Kabila

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — As 34 African heads of state began a French-African summit meeting here, prosecutors in Paris turned down requests Friday by two French human rights groups to begin criminal proceedings against President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on torture charges.

Mr. Kabila, whose forces took power in what used to be called Zaire last year after driving out its longtime president, Mobutu Sese Seko, arrived Thursday from Belgium, where authorities had assured him that his office gave him diplomatic immunity from prosecution or extradition on human rights charges.

Germany Will Not Seek Extradition of Kurd, Citing Risk of Violence

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said Friday that Germany would not ask Italy to extradite the Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Öcalan, but that Mr. Öcalan should appear before a European or international court.

Citing a threat to internal peace, Mr. Schröder said, "I have asked the Italian prime minister for his understanding that we will not make a request for extradition."

"This is because we are the country in Europe with the most Kurds — often refugees — and Turkish citizens," he said at a press conference with Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy.

"We are interested in protecting the peace in Germany."

Mr. Schröder said, "This is one of the most difficult decisions that has had to be made in the recent past."

In Ankara, the government said the refusal by Germany to seek the extradition made it even more essential that Mr. Öcalan be handed over to Turkey.

As Germany has announced that it would not ask for extradition, the only option is the extradition to Turkey," the Foreign Ministry said. Mr. Öcalan, it said, "is a Turkish citizen and has committed terrorist activities in Turkey."

Turkey blames Mr. Öcalan, arrested in Italy two weeks ago, for leading a 14-year guerrilla campaign for self-rule in which some 29,000 people have died.

An Italian court on Nov. 20 refused an initial Turkish request for his extradition. The Italian Constitution prevents

the government from handing over a suspect to countries like Turkey where the death penalty is legal. Germany issued an arrest warrant in 1990 accusing Mr. Öcalan of inciting followers in Germany to murder.

Mr. Schröder said he and Mr. D'Alema had agreed they would work immediately to have Mr. Öcalan, leader of the Kurdish Workers Party, appear before a European or international court.

Mr. D'Alema said he was "convinced one must find a solution" in which an international court could decide the matter. He said he understood Germany's reasons for declining to seek extradition and that he hoped a solution could be found this year.

Germany had come under mounting pressure to ask for the extradition of the guerrilla leader.

Germany is home to more than 2 million Turks and a half-million Kurds, and Mr. Schröder said he had to weigh the consequences of an extradition request against potential violence at home.

With the background of feared disturbances of the peace in Germany, we decided not to do anything," he said.

Mr. Schröder said that he and Mr. D'Alema agreed to work together to fight "terrorists."

"We are both of the opinion that terrorism has to be prosecuted and punished," he said.

Kurdish groups from all over Germany rallied on the opposite bank of the Rhine from the Chancellery as the two leaders met.

prosecutors to begin an investigation of massacres allegedly committed by Mr. Kabila's forces as a violation of a 1984 convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading actions.

Officials in the Paris prosecutor's office said that the convention did not clearly apply to heads of state, and that the complaints by the two groups had not named any individual victims of torture whose cases could be investigated.

President Jacques Chirac, who opened the conference Friday afternoon in the Louvre museum, greeted Mr. Kabila perfunctorily, but plans to meet with him in the Elysee Palace on Saturday.

Mr. Chirac renewed France's call for an international conference, under UN auspices, on peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes region, where both

Rwanda and Uganda are supporting rebels against Mr. Kabila's rule in eastern Congo. Angola, Namibia, Chad and Zimbabwe are backing Mr. Kabila.

Asked whether he might see the Ugandan and Rwandan leaders while he was here, Mr. Kabila said, "A meeting with the aggressors is possible."

Mr. Chirac also said he planned to meet with all the leaders involved in the Congo crisis while they were in Paris.

He told the African leaders Friday morning that they needed a collective security system for resolving conflicts like those that a quarter of all sub-Saharan countries had been involved in this year. He said that France was prepared to play a role in peacekeeping operations if international authorities wished.

But France has cut back its forces in its

former colonies in Africa to about 6,000 soldiers over the past two years, down from 7,860, and intends to keep cutting to about 5,000 as part of its plan to reduce and professionalize the French military.

Mr. Chirac, a conservative, and his Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, have told African leaders that the old days when France used to send in paratroopers and the Foreign Legion to prop up friendly dictators were gone forever.

"The period of outside interference is over," Mr. Chirac reiterated Friday.

"There is a necessity for African countries, and that is to inspire confidence," Mr. Chirac said, "for without confidence there is no economic development. To inspire confidence in the world, today, countries have to appear respectful of the principles of democracy."



Home Secretary Jack Straw, left, got extra time to answer Spain's request. Police facing Mapuche Indians who protested Friday at the presidential palace in Santiago, holding pictures of Mapuche they said were genocide victims.



PINOCHET: Blair Insists He Has No Role in Judicial Decision

Continued from Page 1

ciding whether or not to issue the so-called Authority to Proceed but that he would consider counsel in writing. He has made no comment on the matter.

Earlier Friday, the prime minister's office confirmed that neither Mr. Blair nor other cabinet colleagues would be involved in the decision by Mr. Straw, who is acting in a "quasi-judicial" capacity. The spokesman for Mr. Blair said that Mr. Straw "will not be seeking the views of cabinet colleagues" and added: "The prime minister does not expect to be consulted on this at all."

When Mr. Insulza, a longtime opponent of the Chilean dictator, drove off, protesters pressed pictures of victims of the Pinochet regime against the window of his limousine and shouted "Traitor!" after him.

The Times of London reported Friday that General Pinochet was suffering from "stress" and that his attorneys

might try to stop the extradition process by claiming that he is mentally unfit to stand trial. But Michael Caplan, one of the general's lawyers, later sought to discredit the account in court.

After the magistrate, Mr. Parkinson, called on the general to appear Dec. 11, "subject to any medical reports," the lawyer said it would be wrong of him to enter into the debate about his client's health, but added: "I have been concerned about inaccurate reports appearing in the press."

General Pinochet is at Grovelands Priory Hospital in North London recovering from spinal surgery seven weeks ago. His doctors have said he is able to leave the hospital and he is expected to be moved into a house being rented by friends in days.

Mr. Insulza flew to London on Friday amid growing expressions of concern from public figures and businessmen that the Pinochet case could damage British-Chilean relations and trade and

destabilize democracy in Chile. The deputy chairman of the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce in Santiago wrote a letter to The Times published Friday that said the British government should be "pragmatic in its relationships with its trading partners."

He concluded, "The government does not have a mandate to play Robin Hood to the world."

Figures released by the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce based here show that Chile earns nearly twice as much as Britain — \$656 million compared with \$351 million — from trade between the two countries. Britain's main exports are specialized machine parts, propane gas and Scotch whisky, and British investors have shown interest in participating in major privatizations of Chilean utilities like its water companies.

Fears have been expressed about consumer boycotts of British goods in Chile.

VATICAN: The Pope Sets the Tone for the Church's Millennium

Continued from Page 1

with collective penitence. Pope John Paul II asked Catholics to seek forgiveness for past historical errors during the Jubilee. He also asked rich nations to ease or substantially eliminate Third World debt.

And he said that individual sinners would be granted "plenary indulgences," a full pardon as opposed to a partial one. He included personal acts of penitence or local charity work as a way of earning an indulgence, which he described as "one of the constitutive elements of the Jubilee."

The Pope decreed that the Jubilee would begin on Christmas Day 1999 and end on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, 2001. Throughout the period, believers will be offered a wider selection of ways to receive a plenary indulgence. They can go the classic route, by attending a Mass in one of several designated churches and performing such devotions as the rosary or the Stations of the Cross; or, an appendix to the Pope's letter explains, they can visit the sick, the imprisoned or the handicapped.

They also can give money to the poor, or can choose an act of private sacrifice. As the appendix, signed by William Cardinal Baum, a top Vatican official, explains: "This would include abstaining for at least one whole day from unnecessary consumption" (e.g. from smoking, or alcohol, or fasting, or practicing abstinence according to the general rules of the church and the norms laid down by the Bishops' Conferences). The text points out that sinners must also fulfill the "usual spiritual and sacramental conditions" and say the "usual prayers."

Warning that winning an indulgence required a sincere process of repentance and could not be reduced to an expedient one-day sacrifice, Archbishop Crescenzo Sepe, a top official in the Vatican's committee of the Great Jubilee of 2000, warned: "One could be tempted to think, 'Today I won't smoke or I won't drink wine. I'll get a plenary indulgence and get to Paradise.' That, he said, would be wrong, 'that would not be the spirit of an indulgence, that would be off-beam, like returning to the thinking of the Middle Ages.'"

But the archbishop did not make light

of one-day sacrifices. "It's not so easy for some to give up smoking for a day," he said piously. "It might be easier to visit a prison inmate."

The Pope's decision to expand the use of indulgences during the millennium celebration is not surprising. In 1985 the Pope revealed his respect for the practice by allowing Roman Catholics to receive indulgences over television. Believers who followed a church service where an indulgence was granted on television or radio, could be included — as long as they fulfilled the same conditions as those actually present, including confession, communion and prayer.

Indulgences, which began in early Christian times, have not always been favorably viewed. In the 16th century, Pope Julius II offered indulgences in exchange for contributions to build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Martin Luther protested and was excommunicated in 1521. The church later banned the sale of indulgences, but the Vatican reaffirmed their religious importance at the Council of Trent in 1563. And in 1968 Paul VI elaborated on the subject.

Including indulgences in the 2000 Ju-



The Pope is reaching out to conservatives in the Catholic Church.

bilee "could not be avoided," said the Reverend Jared Wicks, a theologian at Gregorian University in Rome. "Conservative Catholics would find it intolerable that, for eumenical considerations, the church put into the closet a practice affirmed by the Council of Trent."

SINGAPORE: Putting On a Liberal Shine

Continued from Page 1

Nomura International in Hong Kong, added: "Singapore has been much more willing to bite the bullet than Hong Kong. That's a big change."

While Singapore has thrown off old regulations and taken a knife to its high costs, Hong Kong has moved in the opposite direction: intervening to prop up its stock market, imposing a raft of new restrictions on trading and suspending government sales of land to stem the decline in real estate prices.

"We're seeing Hong Kong become more like the Singapore of the past, and Singapore become more like the Hong Kong of the past," said Mac Overton, a portfolio manager at MBF Unit Trust in Hong Kong.

For now at least, Hong Kong has geography on its side. While Hong Kong is the doorstep of China, a vast and still-growing economy, Singapore is sandwiched between two of Asia's sickest countries, Indonesia and Malaysia. Relations in the neighborhood are fragile in the best of times and have frayed badly under the pressure of the downturn.

Indeed, officials in Singapore said its precarious geography had helped solidify popular support for the government's painful recovery package, which seeks to carve \$6.5 billion in costs out of the economy, mostly through a reduction of 5 percent to 8 percent in wages and even deeper cuts in pension benefits.

[Singapore announced Friday that it would lower the capital adequacy requirements for its banks in an effort to help them compete in the global banking industry, Bloomberg News reported.]

[While Singapore's banks will still have to maintain their capital adequacy ratio at 12 percent — higher than the 8 percent required by the Bank of International Settlements — they will be freed, as of Tuesday, to reduce the Tier 1 capital used to calculate the ratio, said Lee Hsien Loong.]

"One reason Singapore has been so

China Tells Japan: Past Is Present

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The tortured history between Japan and China should not be ignored in the rush by the two countries to build stronger relations, President Jiang Zemin of China told Japanese lawmakers Friday.

Mr. Jiang met with legislators the day after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi offered a verbal apology for Japanese aggression in China during World War II — a statement that broke no new ground in settling grievances between the two.

Many conservatives in Japan are opposed to an explicit apology to China, and some have accused Beijing of perpetuating historical wounds that are already sealed and should be forgotten.

But Mr. Jiang — the first Chinese head of state to visit Japan since World War II — said facing the past is crucial to improved ties.

At a morning meeting with Japanese legislators on Friday, Mr. Jiang touched on the issue of Japan's invasion, referring to history as a "mirror" that was important for the future of bilateral relations.

"China is said to take up the historical issue too often, but I don't agree with such a view," Mr. Jiang was quoted by Kyodo news agency as telling the Japanese Communist Party leader, Tetsuzo Fuyuta.

In a speech at a welcoming dinner Friday night, Mr. Jiang said both countries must understand past conflicts to move ahead.

"By making history a lesson for both China and Japan, and by preventing tragedy from being repeated," Kyodo quoted him as saying, the two countries "can develop long-lasting friendship for the first time."

Tokyo took over northeast China in 1931 and then launched an all-out invasion of China proper in 1937. Japanese troops massacred civilians and Japanese doctors experimented on prisoners of war.

Mr. Obuchi's oral apology on Thursday did not go beyond a similar statement issued in 1995. A joint written declaration included a more ambiguously worded apology saying Tokyo was "conscious of its responsibility" for suffering caused to the Chinese people.

The Japanese media reported that Mr. Jiang expressed his disappointment with the communiqué by agreeing with Naoto Kan, the Japanese opposition leader, on Friday that it was not contrite enough.

KOREA: Pyongyang Military Is Losing Its Ability to Invade the South, Pentagon Says

Continued from Page 1

week, the Pentagon released a new report on its security policies toward Asia in which it reaffirmed its intent to maintain U.S. forces in Asia at the current level of about 100,000.

Some analysts speculated that U.S. officials may be calling attention to these signs of North Korean weakness to send a message to the Pyongyang regime, which has recently sought to frighten its neighbors with missile tests and hints that it is expanding its nuclear program.

The U.S. intention may be to point out to North Korea that Americans and South Koreans also understand some of the North's vulnerabilities.

Nicholas Eberstadt, an analyst at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, said that Pyongyang's declining ability to invade might become a political problem internally in North Korea if the population realizes that the often-repeated promise of eventual reunification with the South through the use of force is now only a faint possibility.

"Losing the capability to follow through with this could be a very problematic thing for Pyongyang," he said.

The threat of such an attack has long been a tenet of nationalist faith in the North. Pyongyang's leadership has often asked its people to sacrifice so they could seize the South and reunify their country.

To be sure, the North's expanding ballistic-missile program, its huge chemical weapons arsenal and nuclear ambitions continue to deeply worry U.S. officials. And, as the U.S. defense official noted, the North could still inflict "devastating and unacceptable damage" to the South through an artillery and missile bombardment.

Still, the declining threat of the long-feared invasion reflects how much the military equilibrium on the peninsula has changed.

U.S. military officials have noted signs of declining readiness for some time. The North Korean military has cut back on the training exercises that are essential for maintaining the skills of the personnel who operate its 4,000 tanks and 600 combat aircraft.

U.S. officials believe the North Korean Air Force has reduced training sorties near the DMZ by as much as 75 percent; most of the training that does occur, they

believe, involves routine flights rather than the more elaborate exercises that keep up pilots' fighting edge.

This training has been cut back, in part, because of the lack of imported fuel. In addition, the military wants to avoid unnecessary wear on equipment at a time when spare parts are in increasingly short supply.

North Korea is believed to spend more than a quarter of its resources on the military, and it has carefully husbanded the food supplies for the troops at a time when thousands of civilians are starving. Nevertheless, U.S. military officers point to

reports that soldiers also have gone hungry, and that this has hurt morale.

"It's getting worse in many ways," the American defense official said.

U.S. and South Korean military officers have usually assumed in their planning that the North's powerful drive might be able to advance for several weeks before the Americans and South Koreans began to push it back.

But now Pentagon officials appear to have come to the conclusion that the North could not effectively break out of the border area, nor carry on the vital job of resupplying its front line forces.

INDONESIA: Government Plan for a 'People's Economy' Worries Some Economists

Continued from Page 1

resign, is running roughshod over ethnic Chinese interests to bolster his political standing and the fortunes of Muslim-controlled businesses allied with him.

The result could be a fresh blow to investor confidence, especially among the ethnic Chinese, whose businesses have been frequently targeted during violent unrest in recent months.

"The politicians are weak, so the most appealing policies are populist ones," said Alex Wreksoremboko, head of research at the Jakarta office of Merrill Lynch & Co. "And sequestering assets from rich Chinese is of course very popular."

The International Monetary Fund, which is leading a \$43 billion international rescue for Indonesia, has blocked some of the more extreme plans to effectively expropriate property from Chinese conglomerates, he said. But the government has moved to require con-

glomerates involved in lumber and plantations to transfer 20 percent of their assets to cooperatives, and it has ended their special distribution rights in such markets as cooking oil, a major staple.

Established during the 1950s as a counterweight to avaricious capitalism, thousands of cooperatives run by the state operate at the village level and above, acting in a variety of financial roles, such as making small loans, marketing crops and buying consumer products at cheap bulk prices. Critics accuse them of gross corruption and inefficiency.

"What's happening now is an attempt to go back to this tired, old 1950s paradigm," said Eugene Galbraith, a Hong Kong-based brokerage firm executive who spent eight years working in the Indonesian countryside.

The cooperatives are a mess. They're not cooperatives like you and I might understand it," he said, as in people with common interests banding together. "They're organizations run by the state,

and they're called cooperatives because the members are told to cooperate."

An Indonesian banker, who requested anonymity, said his bank was often approached by officials of cooperatives who, when they asked for loans, demanded bribes as well. "Not everybody does it," he said. "But they are not audited, and they're very political, very corrupt. The government wants to put trillions of rupiah into them; they say, 'This is for the poor, and it sounds good, but it isn't going to work.'"

Mr. Adi and other officials contend that objections to the plan are based on misunderstandings. "The policy has nothing to do with ethnicity," he said, adding that ethnic Chinese could participate in programs to promote small enterprise.

Mr. Adi said the approach was aimed at changing Indonesia from a "primitive market" to a modern one. He said the government had every right to stop a handful of conglomerates from exer-

cising monopoly powers in such sectors as paper and cooking oil.

The dispute has arisen at a time when Indonesia's economic policies are generally winning high marks from economists, notably the IMF and World Bank, which have praised the government for sticking to a disciplined monetary policy that has brought inflation down.

But many private economists are skeptical that investor confidence has begun to revive. They are particularly dubious about official claims that the rupiah's strength is based on a return of private capital. Evidence abounds that people with money in Indonesia are reluctant to keep it there, specialists say, because the political outlook is uncertain at best.

"The new economic policy looks too emotional," said Pande Silalahi, head of the economics department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta. "And if investors see that there is discrimination against the big firms, I think they will leave Indonesia."

The IHT
Put
Right Into

BRIEFLY

Train-Crash Toll
In India Near 200

KHANNA, India — Giant cranes untangled wrecked cars Friday in the effort to retrieve more victims of the crash of two passenger trains, bringing the number of bodies recovered to 192. More bodies were expected to be found.

Officials said 260 people were injured, 30 critically, when the Calcutta-bound Sealdah Express crashed into the Frontier Mail, which had jumped the tracks minutes before the crash Thursday at Khanna, 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of New Delhi.

Teams of doctors operated through the night and into Friday, amputating legs and hands to free trapped survivors.

Workers cleared and opened one of the two railroad tracks Friday after a 46-hour disruption. (AP)

Singapore Denies
Role in Burma Aid

SINGAPORE — Singapore said Friday it was not involved in an initiative by the World Bank and the United Nations to offer \$1 billion in aid to Burma if the military regime began talks with the opposition.

A Singaporean Foreign Ministry spokesman said that "neither the World Bank nor the United Nations has approached Singapore" about development assistance to Burma and that Singapore was "puzzled by reports" that it was expected to contribute.

A report in the International Herald Tribune on Thursday said Singapore would be expected to provide some of the funds for Burma, though the bulk of would come from Japan. (AP)

Chinese Executive
Is Condemned

SHANGHAI — The former head of a state-owned Chinese automaker has been sentenced to death for embezzling more than \$7 million, the company said Friday.

Huang Peiyu, former chairman of Xiamen Motor Co., was convicted of selling part of the government's stake in his company and diverting the money to a personal account in the Cayman Islands.

The sentence was suspended for two years, and Mr. Huang's life might be spared if no other irregularities are found, the company said. (AP)



Chia Thye Poh said Friday that the security act "tramples" human dignity.

As Ban Ends, Singaporean
Vows to Fight Security Law

SINGAPORE — A former member of Parliament in Singapore who spent more than half his life in prison or under observation said Friday that he planned to push for the abolition of the law that put him behind bars without being charged.

"As a victim of the notorious Internal Security Act, I sincerely call on the government to abolish the act," Chia Thye Poh, 57, said a day after the Home Ministry announced the lifting of the last restrictions on his movements under the act.

Mr. Chia, a former lawmaker of the leftist Socialist Front, was arrested Oct. 29, 1966, under the Internal Security Act, which allows detention without trial for renewable two-year periods. He was in prison for more than 20 years until 1989, when he was allowed to live under restrictions on Sentosa, a nearby island south of Singapore.

"The best parts of my life have been taken away just like that," Mr. Chia said. "Personally, I have no grudge. But as long as the policy is not just, not only myself but others will also suffer."

He described the Internal Security Act as a law that "tramples on the human dignity and strikes fear into the mind of the people."

Before being moved to Sentosa, he was kept in at least three prisons. "Though I was not physically assaulted, I had been put in a dark cell and solitary confinement," he said.

In the 1980s, Mr. Chia suffered eye problems that a doctor said were caused by the lack of light in jail. He also had a lung infection, but was given regular medical attention.

Since 1992, Mr. Chia, who is single, has lived on the main island with his parents.

He was unable to issue public statements, attend public meetings, join an association or act as an advisor to any organization. In 1997, however, he was allowed to travel to Germany to take up a one-year research post at the Hamburg Foundation.

Although he was never charged or brought to trial, the government at the time of his detention accused him of being a Communist.

"The only way out," he said, was to "sign a statement, but how do I sign a statement that is not true? That is against my conscience. I was never under any Communist party. I was merely performing my duty as a member of Parliament."

Mr. Chia now works as a translator for Sentosa Development Corp. and is paid on a piecemeal basis translating Chinese-Malay-English documents.

He said that he would champion the abolition of the Internal Security Act but that had no specific plans for a return to politics.

"I am still interested in politics because politics cannot be separated from life," he said.

But Mr. Chia avoided specifics on whether he would aim for political office again or join the opposition.

In announcing the lifting of the Internal Security Act restrictions on Mr. Chia, the Home Affairs Ministry said that he was unlikely to engage in activities prejudicial to security, but should he reinvest himself, then "he would be dealt with firmly under the law."

The IHT Pocket Diary
Puts 1999
Right Into Your Pocket.

- Measures 13 x 8 cm (5 1/4 x 3 in.)
- Black leather cover with gilt metal corners.
- Personalized with gilt initials.
- Week-at-a-glance format, printed on French blue paper with gilded page edges.
- 1999 notable dates and national holidays in over 90 countries; world time-zone table; international telephone dialing codes and country prefixes; conversion tables of weights, sizes, measures and distances.
- Blue ribbon page marker.
- Includes removable address book that fits snugly into its own silk pocket. No need to re-write your most important phone numbers — the address book will fit right into next year's diary.
- Each diary packed in a blue gift box.
- Corporate personalization and discounts are available.

Blue notepaper sheets fit on the back of the diary — a simple pull removes top sheet. 100 refill sheets included.

Year after year — even at a period when diaries abound — the International Herald Tribune flat, silk-grain leather diary is the hit of the season.

Ingeniously designed to be thinner-than-thin, it still brings you everything... including a built-in note pad with always-available "jotting paper". Plus there are conversion tables of weights, measures and distances, a list of national holidays by country, a wine vintage chart, and many other useful facts. All in this incredibly flat little book that slips easily into a pocket.

The perfect gift for almost anyone... including yourself.

Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Please send me: 1999 IHT Pocket Diaries.
Price includes initials, packing and postage in Europe:
1-4 diaries UK £22.50 (U.S.\$37) each INITIALS
5-9 diaries UK £21.00 (U.S.\$34) each up to 3 per diary
10-19 diaries UK £18.45 (U.S.\$30) each

☐ Additional postage outside Europe £4.50 (U.S.\$7).
☐ Check here for delivery by recorded or certified mail: £5.75 (U.S.\$9.20) per package plus postage.

Payment is by credit card only. All major cards accepted.

Please charge to my credit card:

☐ Access ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ Eurocard ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card No. _____

Exp. _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Code/Country _____

Tel/Fax _____

Company EU VAT ID No. _____

(FOR CORPORATE PURCHASES)

Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S MOST RESPECTED

Mail or fax this order form to:
International Herald Tribune Office,
P.O. Box 35, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 4YG, U.K.
Fax: +44 (0) 1765 688 242
E-mail: paul.baker@btinternet.com

Placing your
job ad in
DIE ZEIT
is like fishing
in an aquarium.



DIE ZEIT, Germany's biggest opinion-forming weekly newspaper, offers you the target group you are looking for. DIE ZEIT readers are well educated, young and highly likely to be in a management position. For more information please contact: DIE ZEIT, Speersort 1, 20095 Hamburg, Germany. Phone: +49 (0) 40 32 80-264/396. Fax +49 (0) 40 32 80-446.

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

A Foregone Primary Season

President Bill Clinton is not yet halfway through his second term, but many party regulars believe the race for the presidential nominations in the year 2000 is already over, and that only an unexpected political tsunami could keep Vice President Al Gore and Governor George W. Bush of Texas from being the winners. Their positions on the issues and success as campaigners are obviously part of the reason. But another is the tactical importance of an accelerated schedule of presidential primaries, which will require enormous sums of money and name recognition during the first few weeks of the election season.

States have been racing to get their primaries at the front of the calendar to enhance their impact on the nominating process. California and New York will hold their elections on March 7, 2000, as will most of New England. Legislatures in other states, including New Jersey, are considering joining that pack. Eight Western states are planning to hold a "Big Sky" primary the following Saturday. Unless something changes, the nominations will be decided over one long, expensive late-winter week.

This is a recipe for voter alienation — a rush of primaries that are over before the electorate has even begun to think about the presidential race, followed by a seven-month campaign between the two winners.

Front-loading the election season will make the grassroots contest in New Hampshire meaningless, since a dark-horse candidate who wins there would have no chance of surviving the big bicast primaries two weeks later. But the primary crunch could lead to more reliance on the unrepresentative, easily manipulated straw polls that state parties will begin hold-

ing in 1999, well before the beginning of primary season.

The already battered campaign finance system will take yet another jump, since public matching funds for the presidential campaign are not distributed until rather late in the primary season. The real decisions on nominations will be made while candidates are still waiting for the first check.

Steve Grossman, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, told a recent meeting of secretaries of state that he regarded decline in voter participation as a "threat to the future of democracy." But in the same speech, he declined to make any attempt to stop the pileup of early primaries in 2000. Mr. Grossman claimed that there was no time to develop a new system before the states submit their final plans in May.

Cynics among the Democrats believe the Democratic National Committee's lack of interest in the problem may have something to do with the fact that the present schedule will help Mr. Gore.

Mr. Grossman is right that such a change would be far too complicated to put into effect for 2000. But the two parties could simply agree to push their entire primary season back by a month or more. The date for the first post-New Hampshire primaries could be moved from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in April or May.

That would please candidates for state and local offices, who generally dislike being forced to begin their campaigns so early. More important, it would give the public a decent amount of time to get to know the candidates and consider their platforms. If the parties want to see more voters participate in the process, they must mold the process in a way that makes it easier for the public to get involved.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Guam's 'Fellow Americans'

President Bill Clinton, returning from Asia, dropped by the American Pacific territory of tiny, distant, lonely and federally voiceless Guam. His visit was a personal contribution to a broader administration effort to tie up loose colonial ends in an island the United States acquired in the Spanish-American War fully 100 years ago.

There may be no great political stakes involved in this attempt to ease the political situation of the 145,000 American Guamanians. Still, it deserves to be a matter of concern to Americans, since these issues are not being moved more energetically to a satisfactory outcome.

The problem lies in the tension between affording the citizenry full powers of self-government and protecting other American interests, primarily the integrity of the U.S. Constitution. Guam's commission on self-determination has recommended legislation to designate the island as a "commonwealth."

If the United States approved, a Guam commonwealth would transfer important national powers, such as the gaining of relief from federal immigration and labor standards, to local control. But these powers simply are not available to territories under the American flag. Despite U.S. government efforts to respond to Guam's aspirations for self-government within the U.S. political family, the commonwealth proposal seems to be stalled.

A plan by Guam to hold a refer-

endum next year on full self-government status (free association, independence, statehood) has similarly encountered U.S. disfavor, not least for proposing to limit the vote to the minority of the population drawn from the original Chamorroes.

The fact is that since the admission of Alaska and Hawaii as states, the United States has had no coherent policy to deal with the far-flung American territories and their future status. Not only is scant national urgency felt for the task, but the territories also differ among themselves in their aspirations and circumstances.

In Guam the issue of status was considered important enough for Governor Carl Gutierrez to try to make himself more of a player by doing some dubious fund-raising for Mr. Clinton in 1996.

Mr. Clinton needs to continue searching for ways to help Guam and other territories explore status alternatives that can earn popular favor without neglecting American interests or bending the constitution out of shape. Congress has its own obligation to join the search in a systematic way. Meanwhile, specific problems and grievances can be tended to. For instance, while in Guam, Mr. Clinton promised to expedite release of land no longer needed by the American military for its bases. After all, the people of Guam are, as he said in greeting them, "fellow Americans."

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Managed Care Redux

The last Congress was distinguished by a number of bills that appeared to have majority or near-majority support but failed. These were mainly Democratic proposals — on managed care, campaign finance and the like — that had attracted enough apparent Republican interest to pass, but that the Republican leadership scotched on the theory the party would be better off denying the Democrats the victories. The election suggested that theory was wrong. The question is how the new Republican leaders will respond when the Democrats renew the proposals in the next Congress.

Managed care regulation appears likely to provide an early test. It is simpler than such subjects as campaign finance, it has great resonance with the public, and the bill is fairly well developed. The president and Democratic leaders suggested shortly after the election that it would be first on their list.

For all the tussling over it last year, it

is fairly modest legislation. The goals are to limit how far managed-care organizations can go in denying or refusing to pay for care in their effort to cut costs and to give greater recourse to patients who are turned down. Most of the provisions are fairly conventional consumer protection. A health care plan would have to provide ample information as to costs and what it did and did not cover and about its economic relationships with its providers.

More than one-seventh of the U.S. population now lacks health insurance. The high cost of care is the principal cause. Managed care is the main device American society now employs to contain that cost. Without some form of cost containment, care will become even less accessible. The need is to place controls on the cost-containers while allowing them to do their job. It's a difficult issue, and the Republican leadership treats it with contempt at its peril.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Russia Needs an Eliot Ness to End Its Crime Wave

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — During the spring primary elections in Chicago in 1928, candidates were machine-gunned and bombs at polling places terrorized voters. Desperate to prevent political violence in the November election, the head of the Crime Commission went to the city's most powerful gangster, Al Capone, to plead for help.

Capone, amused and flattered, delivered. With his cooperation, all known local gunners of his and rival gangs were rounded up on Election Eve. Violence was suspended long enough for peaceful citizens to vote: "not one election fraud," marveled the anti-crime chief at the display of Capone's power.

In Russia today, organized gangs of criminals are gunning down reform candidates, honest officeholders and journalists. The country is out of the government's control, and nowhere is political crime more violent than in St. Petersburg, heart of Russia's democratic reform.

In the run-up to local elections, Galina Starovoitova, Russia's leading female advocate of democracy, was murdered. Weapons were laid out in America and Italy were left at the scene. Her press aide, also shot, was able to call the police

and is under heavy guard as a witness.

Miss Starovoitova's funeral this week brought together the splintered reformers for the first time since the murder last year of St. Petersburg's deputy mayor.

Former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar stood with the Yabloko Party leader, Grigori Yavlinsky, to hear their longtime ally Anatoli Chubais hurl defiance at the intimidators.

The newspaper Izvestia charged that "not one high-profile contract killing has been solved. Nazis, multiplying like plague-ridden rats, encounter no rebuke." Another paper, Trud, published a list of unsolved murders beneath the headline "Under personal control of the president" — deriding Boris Yeltsin's usual assumption of command followed by no action.

The FSB (formerly the KGB) is supposedly investigating. But the oligarch Boris Berezovsky, surrounded by former FSB goons, charged recently that the FSB had ordered his murder, that organization counter-charged that the former goons around Mr. Berezovsky had been involved in contract killings.

Mr. Yeltsin — always dying, never dead — has all but abdicated rule to Yevgeni Primakov. That prime minister cannot be bothered with political crime; he is too busy denouncing America and Britain for daring to threaten Saddam Hussein, and sending new reactors and technicians to help Iran become a nuclear power despite feeble protests by President Bill Clinton. (That's the old spy-master's way of thanking the United States for supplying thousands of tons of free grain to starving Russians this winter.)

How can the United States help the embattled reformers in Russia? Certainly not by pouring more monetary aid down its banking system's drain.

In Washington this week, Vladimir Guskinsky, a media baron supporting democrats in next year's Duma elections, denied that Russia's nouveau riche spirited some \$66 billion out of the country in the last four years. But not even an oligarch thinks an infusion of Western money would fix the anarchy in which assassins thrive.

Without concession, the United States should offer to share with the Russians its experience in combating organized crime. U.S. federal agents and big-city cops know how mafias

corrupt officials, and are wise to the latest computer techniques in moving hot money to foreign fronts. Some police officers even remember how to induce rival gangs to "go to the mattresses" and destroy each other.

The point to make to those Russian cops struggling to be honest is that only a few generations ago America had to break the underworld triangle of corrupt politicians, thieving financiers and things for hire.

The United States learned how to slice through cozy arrangements by using an elite force recruited outside the establishment. In 1929, at the behest of a Chicago publisher, the newly elected president, Herbert Hoover, sent in a team of agents to break up Capone's violent politico-criminal empire.

Eliot Ness of Cleveland headed an incorruptible force of a dozen "untouchables." They nailed Capone not for his murders but on a white-collar charge of federal income tax evasion. He died in jail "nutty as a fruitcake," as a gangland visitor reported. What happened in Chicago 70 years ago can happen in St. Petersburg with Russian "untouchables." It begins with presidential will.

The New York Times.

A Faceless Currency Representing a Virtual Europe

By Régis Debray

PARIS — On Jan. 1, 1999, in Paris, London, Berlin and elsewhere, the European currencies will become subdivisions of one unique currency, the euro. After Jan. 1, 2002, Europe will be left with only seven banknotes of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros, respectively. There will also be eight coins denominated in "cents," a curious Americanism, indeed, because in all Romance languages or those with Latin roots, "cents" means "hundreds" but not "one hundredth."

What do we see on our future banknotes whose test prints have just been unveiled? On the front, a window, and on the back, a bridge.

Windows and portals symbolize the spirit of openness. Bridges convey the idea of communication. The 5-euro note depicts an antique bay and an aqueduct, 10 euros a Roman portal and a stone bridge and so on. The 200-euro bill shows a glass door and a viaduct.

There is no image of even a single human being, not even a silhouette on these bridges suspended between heaven and earth as phantom-like apparitions. The pillars and columns have no foundations. No proper names, portraits or mottoes appear anywhere on the banknotes. No landscape either, nor date, nor place. There are only

cold, technical, desert-like images, generated by computers.

The European Monetary Institute prides itself on having given Europe an "appropriate representation." The results are virtual snapshots of a virtual Europe. General, all-purpose pictograms. Context-free messages signaling an economic zone without historical ambitions and claimed moral values.

Marketing and design experts have given birth to a system of virtual identity that nobody can relate to sentimentally, an identity as frigid as a logo created by Andy Warhol.

This is Euroland — a no-man's land, a land of nowhere. It is an opera without voices, an abstract piece of machinery, boring like an election day for the European Parliament. Is this floating creation without grounding in the memories of men and women really the "meta-nation," the great people in gestation that we were promised? The euro is Europe in the year zero.

At the end of the last century, Ernest Renan wrote that "a nation's soul is made up of two things: the sharing of a common legacy of memories of the past, and the present consensus to live together and to share the determination to continue to

live the undivided heritage that was received by all."

Are we Europeans really without memories and without heritage? Even if we disregard political and military glory, which inevitably offend national pride, we are still left with Erasmus, Newton, Shakespeare, Garibaldi, Goethe, Voltaire, Cervantes and many others.

Are these figures not worthy enough to put on our currency? Fifteen countries — soon to become 21 — signify 15 galleries of great men. Admittedly, the choice would not have been easy. Yet, how can Europe represent the future of Europeans if it robs them of their past without offering a new one, and without recognizing its own heritage?

The abstraction of Europe's historical heritage into mere real estate and into fragmented relics of anonymous constructions bears witness to a disquieting lack of ability to "personalize," to give to see and to imagine.

This is without precedent in the genesis of any federation called upon to last. If European originality emerged from its greatest dividers, one might fear that the search for the lowest common denominator, be it in the art of graphics or of politics, will soon lead this originality to its highest degree of blandness.

Sanctions Won't Curb Proliferation

By Joseph S. Nye Jr.

BOSTON — When India and Pakistan shocked the world this past May by testing nuclear weapons, the United States responded by imposing severe economic sanctions. Now Pakistan and India have offered to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty if the United States will lift its sanctions, although several key U.S. senators have opposed such a move. But there is little prospect that American economic punishment will roll back the South Asian situation and some danger it will turn Pakistan into a failed state with nuclear weapons.

Outrage and sanctions are not an adequate U.S. policy. American policy toward South Asia's bombs should have two objectives: It should limit damage to the global consensus against the spread of nuclear weapons; and, inside the region, it should reduce the risk that the bombs will ever be used.

The consensus against nuclear proliferation is not as fragile as some assert. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy stated that he expected to see up to 25 nuclear-weapon powers within a decade. Instead, 35 years later there are eight nuclear states: five recognized in the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty plus India, Pakistan and, by many published accounts, Israel. On the positive side, South Africa gave up its nuclear capability with the end of apartheid, and Argentina and Brazil reversed their incipient nuclear arms race.

In 1995, 178 states agreed to an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The following year, 133 states signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. A few countries — North Korea, Iraq, Iran and Libya — are actual or suspected violators of their treaty obligations and have to be treated as special cases. For most states, however, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty not only promises progress toward global nuclear disarmament in the long run, but also provides

current reassurance that their regional neighbors are not developing nuclear weapons.

In other words, India and Pakistan are not typical cases. At the time they detonated their bombs, neither had signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. India already had developed a nuclear capacity in the 1970s and Pakistan in the 1980s.

It is important to show these two states that their open tests and declarations, driven in part by domestic politics, have not been fruitful. Power in the 21st century will depend on economic growth and mastering the information revolution, not on the brute nuclear force of the 20th century. Nuclear weapons are not a power equalizer, and they cannot be used to blast one's way into an imagined great power club. India and Pakistan today have all the problems and limitations they had last April.

To reinforce this point, other states should make clear that they will not amend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to give India and Pakistan de jure nuclear status, even if the United States takes note of their de facto situation.

America should also state that it will not support India's claim to a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council but will support the claims of Japan, thus breaking the link between status and nuclear weapons.

The United States should agree to lift sanctions if India or Pakistan adheres to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, but that is not enough. Both countries should agree to restrictive nuclear export policies consistent with the Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines. The United States should also encourage them to join the negotiations in Geneva on the cutoff in the production of fissile materials.

At the same time, the United States should try to limit dangers within the South Asian region. Some observers

believe that stable nuclear deterrence will evolve there just as it did between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. But the analogy is flawed. India and Pakistan share a common border. The two powers have clashed violently three times in a half-century. Conflicting territorial claims make Kashmir a flash point. Neither state has developed elaborate technologies to control nuclear weapons; nor have India and Pakistan engaged in learning through a prolonged arms-control dialogue.

To remedy these deficiencies, the United States should offer India and Pakistan advice on the command and control of nuclear weapons, including technical assistance on permissive action links that prevent unauthorized use if they fall into terrorists' hands.

The United States also can help to set up hot lines and military-to-military talks that serve as confidence-building measures. Washington should offer to share with both sides certain information that the U.S. Space Command collects on missile launches. The United States should also encourage Pakistan and India not to deploy weapons to front-line commands and to negotiate arrangements in which warheads do not stand mated to missiles. Finally, America should offer to convene a five-power security dialogue of America, Russia, China, India and Pakistan to discuss ways to improve stability in the region.

Some will object that these measures are not sufficiently harsh. Outrage and sanctions probably played a useful role six months ago, but they are no longer sufficient to further America's twin objectives of reinforcing the global nonproliferation consensus while saving lives in South Asia.

The writer is dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a former assistant secretary of defense. He contributed this column to The Washington Post.

For those of us who only read the numbers in the corners of our banknotes, monetary signs always had more importance than we realized. As collective I.D. cards, they are somewhat like the nations' slips of the tongue, their "mots d'esprit," as Sigmond Freud would put it, through which they divulge their historical subconsciousness.

Nations are "imaginary communities" in which individuals are linked less by their ideas than through shared images, myths, legends and personalities. Just as genealogy is essential to any political legitimacy, memory is essential to form a common will.

Russell's Europe is a fatherless child. Its signs of power are barren of anything imaginary or any motivating myth. The euro is a desert of men, the opposite of a collective personality.

There is not even any image that reminds us of the United States of America, even at its very European beginnings, although some wish to compare the United States of Europe to the United States of America.

Look at the good old "great back." You will see Uncle Sam's most intimate secrets. The currency of the United States of America, like the story of its other currencies, tells a story, a secular Western, a movie about the Founding Fathers, \$1, George Washington; \$2, Thomas Jefferson; \$5, Abraham Lincoln; \$10, Alexander Hamilton; \$20, Andrew Jackson; \$50, Ulysses Grant. The dollar bears witness to the fact that the 13 American colonies (which shared the same language, the same Protestant faith, the same history or the absence thereof, the same culture, and the same enemy, the British Crown) united — and remained united — around faces, proper names and well-defined sites.

America was welded together into a sovereign unit through a war of liberation, then molded through a civil war. On the \$100 note, you can see Benjamin Franklin on the front, and, on the back, Philadelphia's Independence Hall, a clearly defined "memory site," on the background of a well-identified landscape, and under the motto, "In God We Trust."

Thank God, Europe does not claim to be the land of a chosen people. But does this mean that it believes in nothing, and dreams only of exchanging merchandise?

Or take the \$1 bill. Washington, the former commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, is in the middle with his powdered wig and ruff. Take a close look at the seal. The eagle represents American sovereignty. The eagle's head represents the executive, its body

the legislative, and its nine-feathered tail the judiciary. In its right claw, the eagle holds the olive branch. In its left, the arrows of war. The whole, undivided divine "glory," represents the Holy Spirit. Then look at the back: God's eye towers over a pyramid with 13 steps (the original colonies). The state's secular powers, the military and bureaucracy are thus placed under divine guidance. "Annuit coeptis," the bill says, God helped our endeavors.

This green-and-white rectangle is indeed well suited for a messianic nation, certainly the last of this world.

The euro, on the other hand, resembles the accounting unit of a multinational corporation, or Monopoly money. Granted, it is useful for a trade system, but it does not provide a destiny.

That the euro may one day compete with the dollar is a hope that is widely shared in Europe. But a strong economy alone does not give power.

European wealth does not seem to measure up to American power. For now, Europe remains an extension of America's political and military goals.

To put it clearly: Europe is the vassal of an imperial sovereign whose sovereignty it does not question, neither in principle nor in fact. This Europe, integrated into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has so little pride that it has even given up its plans to form the famous "second pillar" of the Atlantic Alliance for fear it might upset its commanders in Washington.

In short, nothing is really more revealing of the insufficiencies of this "European machine" than this piece of paper that has no story to tell and shows no figure of which one could be proud: no founding event, no great destiny, no baptism by fire. No heroes of independence, and no independence.

One would have to be naive to imagine that a supermarket could give birth to a superpower without, one day, paying tribute to the tragedy of history. We seem to have forgotten the lesson the philosophers have imparted to us over the course of civilization: "Nothing great can be achieved without passion."

Europe is still in the accounting phase. It has not yet developed an image of itself. It is not yet ready, like a great nation, to face dangers and steps. It has not yet reached adulthood. Our adolescence is inscribed in our currency.

The writer, a writer and philosopher, was a senior aide to former President François Mitterrand. He contributed this column to Global Viewpoints (Los Angeles Times Syndicate).

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Spain Complies

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] Spain has at last made up her mind to accept the title of the United States to Porto Rico, Guam and the Philippine archipelago, in which is included the Sulu islands, was confirmed at the meeting of the Hispano-American Peace Commission. America has assured Spain that she intends to inaugurate the policy of the "open door" in the Philippines and that Spain will enjoy the same commercial privileges as her own people.

1923: Girls' Manners

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] One of the best things that any college can cultivate is the faculty of discrimination. Vassar girls think that they are using it sagely in reference to bare knees and cigarettes. The authorities of the college who have forbidden

both seem to have ignored another extreme in feminine manners — the barring of neck, shoulders and back in this worldly society. To inculcate a hostility to certain abuses which students will encounter outside of college is quite as important as to prevent certain excesses of conduct within its walls.

1948: Jews Emigrate

PRAGUE — Jews are being permitted to emigrate freely to Israel from all countries in the Soviet sphere. Reports indicated that at least 5,000 from each of the six eastern European countries would leave for Palestine by the end of 1948 and the final total might run to over 50,000. Non-Jewish emigration has been all but choked off in the "people's democracies," with would-be travelers subjected to weeks of red tape and even bona fide communists frequently denied passports.

Herald Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1867

KATHARINE GRAHAM, ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER
Co-Chairmen of the BoardPETER C. GOLDMARK JR., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
RICHARD WOOLDRIDGE, President and Chief Operating Officer
MICHAEL GETTLER, Executive Editor

- WALTER WELLS, Managing Editor • PAUL HORVITZ, Deputy Managing Editor
- KATHERINE KNORR and CHARLES MITCHELMOORE, Deputy Editors
- ROBERT J. DONAHUE, Editor of the Editorial Pages
- JONATHAN GAGE, Business and Finance Editor • SAMUEL ABT, Associate Editor
- RENÉ BONDY, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
- DIDIER BRUN, Circulation and Development Director
- STEPHEN DUNBAR-JOHNSON, Advertising Director
- Directeur de la Publication: Peter C. Goldmark Jr.

International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Subscriptions, (1) 41.43.92.10; Advertising, (1) 41.43.92.12; News, (1) 41.43.93.38.
Internet address: <http://www.ihl.com> E-Mail: ihl@ihl.com

Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Convent Road, Singapore 11800. Tel: (65) 472.7768. Fax: (65) 274.2334.
Mng. Dir. Asia: Nigel I. Oakes, #1201, 191 Jume Road, Hong Kong. Tel: 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1189.
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schiller, Friedrichstr. 15, 10117 Berlin. Tel: +49 30 9712504. Fax: +49 30 9712503.
U.S. Office: 800 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel: (212) 755-3800. Fax: (212) 755-4783.
U.S. Office: 800 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel: (212) 755-3800. Fax: (212) 755-4783.
U.S. Office: 800 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel: (212) 755-3800. Fax: (212) 755-4783.
S.A.S. are capital de 200 000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021726. Commission Paritaire No. 61337.
©1998, International Herald Tribune. All rights reserved. ISSN: 0294-8052.



Armed Israeli soldiers escorting Jewish settlers Friday in Hebron. Palestinians stoned settlers and soldiers after settlers blocked Palestinian motorists from using a road and then marched into the Palestinian sector.

Israel Grapples With Lebanon Role

Killings Prompt Netanyahu to Issue Warning and End Trip Abroad

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short a trip abroad on Friday to return home to reconsider the Israeli Army's long-standing occupation of southern Lebanon.

Seven Israeli soldiers have been killed there in the last week and a half. While there is a cyclical nature to the Israeli debate on Lebanon policy, the spate of recent casualties has again stepped up pressure on the government to contemplate a unilateral withdrawal of its troops from southern Lebanon after 20 years there.

After fierce fighting Thursday between Israeli soldiers and Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas, two young soldiers were killed that night when a roadside bomb hit their armored vehicle.

Mr. Netanyahu, who was in London, canceled a weekend trip to Spain, issuing fighting words.

"We are now under murderous attack by Hezbollah, who are attempting to shock us into leaving Lebanon without fulfilling our purpose there," he said. "Our soldiers are heroically standing up

to the attack, and I say that we will not put our tail between our legs and leave."

Nonetheless, Mr. Netanyahu added that he was willing to consider a proposal from Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon that some have found surprising. The hawkish Mr. Sharon, who as defense minister led the ill-fated Lebanon war, now sides with Israeli doves. He favors a withdrawal of troops, although he suggests a gradual one, accompanied by a threat of harsh retaliation for any incursions into northern Israel.

In Beersheba, thousands poured into the military cemetery for the funeral of Eyal Cohen, 20, hours after he was killed Thursday night. Hundreds of soldiers came directly from the Lebanese front, backpacks and machine guns slung over their shoulders. Mourners built a hill of flower bouquets, still covered in celophane, atop the fresh grave.

The soldier's brother-in-law, himself a former fighter in Lebanon, delivered the eulogy.

"The river of Lebanon is soaked with blood," he said. "The government has to decide whether it crosses the river bank of peace or the river bank of war."

With each year that the low-level war in southern Lebanon has continued, the Israeli public has grown less tolerant of the occupation. A poll in the Ma'ariv newspaper Friday showed 40 percent support for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, up from 22 percent in March, and 16 percent in February 1997. The poll was taken on Wednesday, after three of the seven had been killed.

The seven deaths bring to 22 the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon this year. Last year, 39 were killed, an uptick after several years averaging 25 deaths. Israeli Army officials were hoping to keep the toll low this year to relieve pressure that has built for withdrawal.

"Politicians have told us in meetings that 20 soldiers a year is not a high price to pay," said Shlomo Kantor, 28, who protested Friday in front of the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

About 2,200 Israeli troops are stationed in a self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon to fight a guerrilla war waged by Hezbollah. Israeli opponents argue that at this point it is the Israeli Defense Force's presence itself that sustains the bloodshed.

The conflict began in the 1970s when the Palestine Liberation Organization, now based in Gaza, was exiled in southern Lebanon, staging incursions on Israel with assistance from Hezbollah and others. In 1982, Israeli troops, under Mr. Sharon, marched over the border almost all the way to Beirut and shelled Palestinian refugee camps and military installations. They drew international condemnation, but chased the Palestinians into Tunisia. The Israelis eventually withdrew into a southern band of Lebanon, focused on preventing Hezbollah from shelling settlements in northern Israel.

Ever since, they have maintained a presence there, even after the settlers in northern Israel, tired of the conflict, began to favor their withdrawal. The military opposes any move.

"Anyone who is looking for easy solutions should remember that there are no magical ones," the Israeli Army chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, said Friday. "So long as we are in the security zone and fighting against the Hezbollah, there will be a price. But any other alternative seems to us to be worse, more dangerous and likely to increase the number of soldiers and civilians in the north who get hurt."

It is unclear whether Mr. Netanyahu, in meetings that are to continue Sunday, will push hard beyond a reconsideration of military tactics to rethink his Lebanon policy. In the past, he has said that a withdrawal from Lebanon must be based on some kind of an agreement with Syria, through whose borders the weapons flow to Hezbollah.

Syria is opposed to a unilateral Israeli withdrawal because it wants to use its control of Lebanon — and of Hezbollah's battle — to force Israel into negotiations over the return of the Golan Heights.

Montenegro Cuts the Ties That Bind

Step by Step, It Rebuffs Belgrade for an Independent Course

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

PODGORICA, Yugoslavia — A bit like jabbing a bear with a small stick, political reformers in Montenegro continue to find ways to irritate the leaders of Serbia, in recent weeks by printing newspapers and magazines banned by the Serbian authorities and smuggling them under cover of darkness to Belgrade by bus, train and plane.

The smuggling is the latest episode in a growing confrontation between Montenegro and Serbia, its larger and more powerful neighbor to the north. After decades of close relations, the governments of the two remaining republics in the federation of Yugoslavia are sharply at odds over a range of social, economic and political policies, and, according to some senior Montenegrin officials, are headed for an eventual split.

Already, Montenegro has halted its transfer of tax revenue to the federal government, which it claims has not been legally constituted since May. During the conflict this summer in Kosovo, a province in southern Serbia, senior Montenegrin officials publicly discouraged teenagers from reporting for the Yugoslav military draft. In recent weeks, the government announced plans to open its own "liaison" offices in five foreign capitals, including Washington, and is considering establishing a separate Montenegrin currency.

The Montenegrin president, Milo Djukanovic, has become one of the fiercest critics of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, having denounced his refusal to grant autonomy to Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority and accused him of stifling freedom and economic reform. Some of his top ministers predict that Montenegro eventually will be forced to declare independence, a move that almost certainly would provoke a similar declaration by the Kosovo Albanians and threaten another Balkan war.

"The divergence is something that you can feel, and it has a direct influence on the stability and survival of the country," said Mr. Djukanovic, 36, who took office in January and has won U.S. and West European support for his democratic reforms. Although he said that Montenegro was not in a hurry to "get out of Yugoslavia," he noted that what Mr. Milosevic "is doing" would lead to Montenegro's "disappearance."

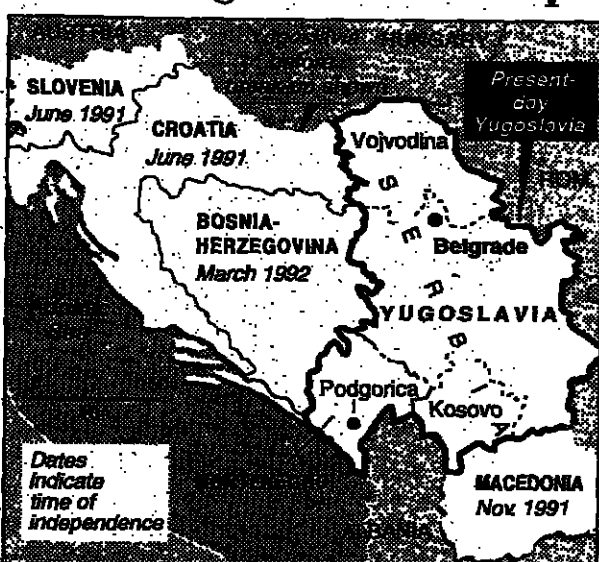
With a declining economy largely based on the smuggling of foreign goods and a crushing financial burden from tens of thousands of refugees from neighboring Kosovo, Montenegrin leaders are desperate to improve living conditions by escaping from the international economic sanctions strangling Yugoslavia. Their strategy has been to cut the cords that tie them to Serbia in areas where they conclude that the federal government has failed to function or has "endangered us," as Mr. Djukanovic says.

The struggle is not between two equals. Montenegro has an estimated population of 650,000, one-third that of the city of Belgrade, capital of both Serbia and Yugoslavia, while its territory is one-twentieth the size of Serbia's. But the government in Podgorica already has taken over the tasks of licensing mass media, levying customs duties and approving imports and exports from its territory. A new criminal code that rescinds many federal penalties is expected to be approved by the republic's Parliament within months.

In addition, Montenegro has diverted \$1 million in federal taxes to fund its pensions because Belgrade has not made payments for the past four months. It has begun to negotiate its own trade deals with the West, having won permission to tap international loan funds under a partial exemption from the sanctions that was brokered with U.S. help. It has licensed a radio station based in Belgrade to begin transmitting into Serbia from Lovcin, a town on the republic's border.

"Day by day, there are fewer and fewer links with the federal administration," said Branko Perovic, who heads a 30-person Foreign Ministry in Montenegro. "Only monetary and military links remain. There is nothing else."

Mr. Milosevic and his handpicked prime minister, Momir Bulatovic, a Montenegrin opposition leader, have branded Mr. Djukanovic a traitor and



accused his government of trying to engineer the breakup of Yugoslavia. When NATO air strikes against Serbia over its Kosovo crackdown loomed in October, they threatened to impose a national state of emergency that would have seriously undermined Mr. Djukanovic's authority.

Last week, in a bid to reassert its ju-

isdiction over the media, Serbia levied a \$300,000 fine against the publisher of Monitor, a Montenegrin magazine that illustrated an article about Serbia with an advertisement by a student group calling for national Montenegrin officials have said the fine will not be enforced.

Mindful of the historical affection that many Montenegrins retain for the Yugoslav federation, Mr. Djukanovic and his ministers have cast themselves as supporters of a reformed Yugoslavia, not of its further breakup. Like the Serbs, Montenegrins are mostly Slavic and share the same Eastern Orthodox faith, but the republic also includes a minority population of Muslims and Albanians.

A referendum held in the early 1990s, when other Yugoslav republics voted to secede from the federation, showed overwhelming support for continued union. But a poll taken several weeks ago found the population deeply divided,



President Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia, right, greeting the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana Madariaga, in Skopje.

NATO: Europeans Oppose Broader Alliance Role

Continued from Page 1

need a modicum of flexibility," a NATO diplomat said. "A Security Council mandate is highly desirable, but we should not tie our hands in advance."

During the Kosovo crisis, despite Russian opposition and the absence of a specific Security Council mandate, NATO authorized possible military action against Serbia. American officials, including Richard Holbrooke, said this decision amounted to an important precedent, but European officials generally argued that none had been set.

Joachim Fischer, Germany's Green foreign minister, is among those who have argued passionately that the rule of law would be threatened and competing regional security blocs encouraged if NATO arrogates to itself even the limited right to act without explicit Security Council mandates.

"We are looking at language that would say something like NATO will act under the authority of the United Nations, with an appropriate legal basis and, as far as possible, a UN Security Council resolution," an official said. "But this is a difficult issue that is certain to involve painful discussions."

Other difficulties center on a program again put forth by the United States and known as NATO's "Defense Capability Initiative."

This program is designed to take full, if somewhat belated, account of the Cold War's end by pushing through a radical transformation described this month by Secretary of Defense William Cohen as one from "fixed, positional defense to a flexible, mobile defense."

In essence, the United States wants to be sure that NATO can now project power, if necessary far afield, engage it effectively, sustain it over long periods and maintain it even against chemical, biological or electronic attack.

"We need advanced, mobile communications, helicopters, lift, and sustainability," an official said. "But a lot of armies in Europe, including the German, are still configured for a European land war with tanks so heavy you can't move them."

While European governments broadly agree that the need for these changes has been demonstrated by missions like the one in Bosnia, they are concerned by the high cost. Their budgets are strictly curtailed by European Union agreements. They also fear that the program may be a thinly veiled invitation to buy weapons and equipment in America.

Encouraged by the British government, the EU is now looking at ways to make its sprawling defense industry more cost-effective. Annual European defense spending is two-thirds that of the United States, but the real yield is only one-third of the American level because of duplications.

Reform is likely to be slow, however, and any American quest for budgetary commitments, like the 3 percent annual increase in defense spending pledged by European governments during the Carter years, would certainly fall on deaf ears.

While the first post-Cold War flush of Europe's ambitions to develop its own defense arm has eroded, and a broad accord exists that "separable but not separate" European units should develop within NATO, some tensions persist over what should be said about Europe's defense identity in the new alliance doctrine.

A NATO "extraction force" manned entirely by Europeans and under a French commander, but dependent on American intelligence and logistics, is about to deploy in Macedonia to help protect Western monitors in Kosovo. This European deployment amounts to a first for NATO.

NATO diplomats said the French government appeared to want to give priority for statements on this mission and Europe's defense future to a European Union summit conference in Cologne that follows the Washington meeting. But the United States was adamant that the issue be addressed primarily in Washington.

One issue on which there appears to be broad agreement is that there should be a period of consolidation after the formal admission to NATO of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic at the summit talks. It is highly unlikely that further, specific invitations to join will be issued in April, alliance officials said.

Such a decision, however couched, is almost certain to anger several candidates for membership, including Romania and Bulgaria.

On the question of NATO's nuclear forces, it also appears clear that consolidation rather than innovative change will prevail. While the broad aim of balanced nuclear disarmament exists, a majority of allies regard the nuclear threat, including its potential first use, as central to security. Already, Germany has had to swallow its misgivings.

ASIA: China, Gently, Flexes Its Strategic Muscles

Continued from Page 1

Monday that even though the Cold War was over, uncertainty in the region caused by the financial crisis and North Korea's recent missile test made it essential for Washington to strengthen its alliances with Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines.

"Foremost, the United States will continue to strengthen its strategic partnerships with allies, which serve as important pillars from which to address regional political and military challenges," the report said.

Releasing copies of the report in Washington, Defense Secretary William Cohen noted that Asia was not as confident economically or militarily as it was in 1995, when the Pentagon released its previous East Asia strategy report. "The economic difficulties and concerns about the developments in North Korea have created uncertainty throughout the region, and in view of these changes it's important to stress that the continuity of America's commitment remains unchanged," he said.

In his speech Friday on China's defense policy at a meeting organized by the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore, General Chi, who is a cabinet member and vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, indicated that the Chinese military saw the U.S. alliance system as an attempt to weaken and contain China.

"Security is mutual," he said, "and security dialogues and cooperation should be aimed at promoting trust instead of creating confrontations, still less at directing the spearhead against a third country or infringing upon the security interest of any other country."

General Chi said that the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region was relatively stable. But he cautioned that "there still exist some factors of instability both globally and regionally. Hegemonism and power politics remain the main source of threats to world peace and stability. The Cold War mentality and its influence still have a certain currency."

The U.S. strategy report emphasized that Washington was committed to "comprehensive engagement" with China, and that the two countries shared many common global and regional interests.

But it said that China's rise as a major power presented an array of potential challenges.

"Many of China's neighbors are closely monitoring China's growing defense expenditures and modernization of the People's Liberation Army, including development and acquisition of advanced fighter aircraft, and programs to develop mobile ballistic missile systems, land-attack and anti-ship cruise missiles, advanced surface-to-air missiles, and a range of power projection platforms," the report said.

But General Chi said Beijing had "strictly controlled" its defense budget for many years so that the government could give priority to economic development.

As a result, he said the Chinese military budget for 1998 amounted to just under \$11 billion, with only one-third of it being spent on weapons and equipment. By contrast, he added, the U.S. defense budget in 1998 was \$255 billion, while Japan set aside \$42 billion.

Western diplomats on Friday sought to play down the notion of a looming clash of strategic interests between China and the United States in Asia, saying that some Chinese officials privately acknowledged that the country's economic modernization had benefited from the stable regional environment that U.S. alliances and military cooperation agreements in the region had promoted.

The diplomats noted, for example, that General Chi was on a four-day official visit to Singapore, which allows U.S. warships and aircraft to make regular use of its bases for refueling, replenishment and exercises.

The U.S. Navy also makes from 60 to 80 port calls annually to Hong Kong, and this program has continued uninterrupted since China resumed sovereignty over the former British colony in July 1997.

DO YOU LIVE IN THE U.K.?

• Subscribe and SAVE up to 53% off the cover price.

• Also available: PAY MONTHLY by easy, low cost, direct debit.

HAND DELIVERY IN CENTRAL & GREATER LONDON & PARTS OF THE SOUTH EAST.

Postal subscriptions are available throughout the UK on the day after publication.

Herald Tribune

For more information about easy ordering and availability of hand delivery CALL our Subscriber Customer Service Department: TOLL FREE: 0800 4 448 7877 (0800 448 7877) or Fax: +44-0171 240 34 17 E-mail: subs@iht.com Internet: http://www.iht.com

PAYMENT BY MONTHLY DIRECT DEBIT

☐ YES, I'd like to subscribe and have my bank account debited monthly by £19. Please start my subscription and send me a bank form to arrange my payment.

PAYMENT BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

☐ YES, I'd like to subscribe and pay for the following term:

☐ 12 months (+ 2 months free): £233 (Savings off cover price: 36%)

☐ Special 2-month trial subscription: £24 (Savings off cover price: 53%)

☐ My check is enclosed (payable to the IHT)

Charge my: ☐ Access ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ Eurocard ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Credit card charges will be made in French Francs at current exchange rates.

Card No: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

☐ Please start delivery and send invoice.

Family Name: _____

First Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Mailing Address: ☐ Home ☐ Business _____

City: _____ Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Your VAT No (Business orders only): _____ (VAT No: 747 230 211 34)

I got this copy of the IHT at: ☐ kiosk ☐ hotel ☐ airline ☐ other UK/18

☐ I do not wish to receive information from other companies.

This offer expires on December 31, 1998 and is AVAILABLE FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

Return your completed coupon to: Delphine Prinzelaz, International Herald Tribune, 63 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JH, Fax: +44-0171 240 34 17 E-Mail: subs@iht.com

READERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES CAN SUBSCRIBE BY CALLING:

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Tel: +33 1 41 43 93 61 Fax: +33 1 41 43 92 10

THE AMERICAS

Tel: (USA toll free) 1-800-882-2884 Fax: +1 212 755 8785

Tel: +852 29 22 11 71 Fax: +852 29 22 11 99

ART

Bonvin, the Odd Man Out

Exhibition Rediscovered a 19th-Century Master

By Sourin Melikian
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — It never helps to be the odd one out in art history. This may be why it took François Bonvin 111 years to receive a posthumous homage in his hometown, Paris, in the form of a retrospective. Rediscovery might be a better word. Of the 100 paintings and drawings on view at the Galerie Beres, two-thirds were hitherto unrecorded.

As visitors gaze at these studies in human solitude or at the still lifes painted in minimalist manner, which never seem to relate to anything else in the 19th century, many will wonder

what secret allowed this painter they knew little or nothing about to operate in such total independence.

The Balzacian story of his childhood told in the catalogue, which adds a considerable amount to the information gathered in Gabriel Weisberg's groundbreaking monograph of 1979, partly answers the question.

His father came from the poorest layer of French pre-Revolutionary society, the landless farm laborers. Having fought for 11 years as a private in Napoleon's campaigns, he came out a nervous wreck and in 1817 married a young seamstress, frail and unstable. She died of tuberculosis four years after the birth of François, who would be

forever haunted by the glorified memory of a fairylike mother.

Working long hours, the father at first left his son in the care of an old woman who did not feed him properly. For his child's sake as much as his own, Bonvin married another seamstress. For François, things went from bad to worse. While he got on well with those of his nine half-brothers and sisters who lived beyond infancy, he was loathed by his stepmother who undernourished and ill-treated him. In one incident, she threw a kitchen knife at him, landing him in a hospital.

With no money at home, François was able to attend school only intermittently and struggled to catch snatches of learning wherever possible, if only from neighbors. The boy was 11 when he had his first fluke of luck. A clerk in a town hall where his father had a job saw one of the drawings François did to amuse his young half-brothers when he looked after them and promised to pay for the expense of attending a drawing school. For two blissful years young François received his first professional training.

It came to an abrupt end when the father, unable to make ends meet, apprenticed him to a printer. For several years, the boy worked as a typesetter and tried to keep up drawing after work.

Luck smiled a second time. François, by now a young man, landed a job at the Paris police headquarters, had an accident that sent him to the hospital yet again, and there a famous surgeon doing his rounds noticed the sketches he was doing when able to sit up in bed.

The surgeon recommended Bonvin to one of his bosses. His workload eased up a bit, leaving him more time to draw. Then, a senior policeman interested in the arts introduced him to a celebrity, the painter François-Marie Granet, who was curator of paintings at the Royal Museum, i.e. the Louvre. Granet gave him precious advice. Bonvin knew he would become an artist for good.

Another crucial encounter, with Courbet, the champion of naturalism, deterred him from any temptation he might have felt to go along with the Romantic school and its melodramatic excesses typified by Delacroix, or neo-classicism bogged down in stereotypes.

The earliest phase of Bonvin's artistic development eludes us. How he came to paint in 1846 two small landscapes, of which one is more advanced than anything Impressionism would



One of two landscapes in oils done in 1846 by François Bonvin.

produce later, is intriguing — and no less so for the fact that this, apparently, remained a parenthesis in his oeuvre. He rarely returned to landscape painting and when he did, it was in a very different manner.

Bonvin turned his attention to his fellow humans, young children, often solitary and struggling to keep their composure while in distress, and working-class women in their daily pursuits — the world of his childhood.

Among the masterpieces previously unknown, a sketch in oils dated 1847 shows a little girl seated, steadying a bowl of soup on her apron. She is the image of cold poverty, retreating into a corner. A touch of the Le Nain brothers' influence may be detected, and yet this is different. There is no background, no context. It is as much a figure from a parable as reality observed.

A year later, Bonvin chose another manner when portraying a young boy in a Louis Philippe armchair. The neatly dressed sitter belongs to the establishment, but his expression is one of repressed distress. His intense blue eyes stare at the viewer and his lips are pressed tightly. One hand, crossed over the other, hangs limply and looks shriveled. Infirmary is suggested rather than depicted. In its miniature size, this

is one of the great French portraits of the mid-19th century.

Wielding his pen laden with ink on Aug. 30, 1849, Bonvin, with astonishing versatility, resorted to yet another manner — incisive and quietly tragic. The head of a young woman in profile, bent forward, with a shadow over her eyes, is set against a circular crisscross, like some halo of suffering. The somber mood is reminiscent of Rembrandt.

At intervals, the painter had his lighter moments. He must have taken great pleasure in sketching a toddler ensconced in his baby chair, his cheeks puffed out in an effort at concentration. The child awkwardly rattles his knife over an apple too big for his fingers in a futile attempt at cutting it.

Schoolboys riveted Bonvin, as if the memory of those years when he tried to pick up crumbs of learning came back to haunt him.

Around 1860, he painted two young boys absorbed in the perusal of an enormous 17th-century book. One is seated on a low stool with the open volume jammed between his knees while the other stands by, looking down at the pages. Two books laid open on the floor give the key to the scene — they must be

cribbing some Latin text. No indication is given of architectural space. This is an icon, as timeless as ever, on the theme of learning.

The painter handled still life, his other passion, with the same aesthetic restraint. One of his early essays from 1852 shows a copper basin with a white kitchen towel thrown over the rim and the handle of a ladle that sticks out. There is no furniture, not even the suggestion of a wall.

Ten years later, when painting a basket with apples and a bunch of grapes that gleam in the dark, Bonvin again cast aside any idea of a background — the basket sits on an ill-defined dark surface with a sheen. If Courbet's realism is descriptive and often bombastic, Bonvin's is quintessential and understated.

The painter stands as clearly apart in his handling of still lifes as he does with his gallery of portraits. It is as if Bonvin had carried over the hermetic loneliness of his childhood, impervious to the world, into his art. To survive as a child, he erected psychological barriers around himself. The artist retained them in a rare case of creation in quasi-isolation.

"François Bonvin (1817-1887)," Galerie Beres, 25 Quai Voltaire, until Jan. 10.



Portrait of a young boy from 1848; infirmity is suggested rather than depicted.

ARTS

COINAGHI
A Christmas Exhibition of
Old Master and 19th Century Drawings
priced from £300 to £5,000
November 25th to December 18th, 1998
Weekdays 10am - 6pm
Sunday, December 13th 10am to 4pm
15 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4PL Tel: 01753 497745

auCTION sales
IN FRANCE
PARIS
DROUOT RICHELIEU
9, rue Drouot 75008 Paris - Tel: 33 (0)1 48 00 20 20
Monday, December 7, 1998
Room 11 at 2 p.m. 17th, 18th and 19th century GOLD and MODERN BOOKS. Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75008 Paris, tel: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 30 - fax: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 31. Web: <http://www.tajan.com> - Email: tajan@worldnet.fr
Monday, December 7, 1998
Rooms 1 & 7 at 2:15 p.m. FURNITURE - WORKS OF ART CARPETS - EARTHENWARE and PORCELAIN - JUDAICA. Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75008 Paris, tel: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 30 - fax: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 31. Web: <http://www.tajan.com> - Email: tajan@worldnet.fr
Friday, December 11, 1998
Room 2 at 2:15 p.m. JEWELLERY - WATCHES and PRECIOUS STONES. Safe due to Judgement rendered by the Tribunal of Aix-en-Provence. Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75008 Paris, tel: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 30 - fax: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 31. Web: <http://www.tajan.com> - Email: tajan@worldnet.fr
ESPACE TAJAN
37, rue des Mathurins 75008 Paris - Tel: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 30
Thursday, December 10, 1998
At 3 p.m. OLD and MODERN BOOKS. Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75008 Paris, tel: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 30 - fax: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 31. Web: <http://www.tajan.com> - Email: tajan@worldnet.fr

GALERIE
HOPKINS • THOMAS • CUSTOT
Impressionist and Modern Paintings
2, rue de Miromesnil, 75008 Paris
Tel: 33 1 42 65 51 05 - Fax 33 1 42 66 90 28

INAUGURATION
MUSEE DES ANNEES TRENTES
48 avenue André Morizet, Boulogne-Billancourt (Paris), France
ARBIT BLATAS
Portraits - Artists of the School of Paris
Official Inauguration
December 10, 1998
Open to the Public
December 11, 1998

JULIUS L. STEWART
American Painter of the Belle Epoque
through December 5
Vance Jordan Fine Art Inc.
37, rue des Mathurins, 75008 Paris, tel: 33 (0)1 53 30 30 30

HRH The Prince of Wales
signed lithographs
Titles include
Windor Castle
Balmoral
Sandringham
Windsor Castle
Yorkshire
Klosters

ETUDE TAJAN
Important auctions in Paris
Espace Tajan
37, rue des Mathurins 75008 Paris
organized by Maitres Jacques and François Tajan
Monday, December 14 at 9 pm
Old master paintings
Tuesday, December 15 at 2:30 pm
French & continental ceramics
Tuesday, December 15 at 4 pm
Fine furniture & works of art
from the 17th, 18th, 19th centuries
Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm
Art nouveau - Art déco
Wednesday, December 16 at 3 pm
Fine furniture from Château de Long
(Somme) in France
Wednesday, December 16 at 8 pm
Modern paintings
Thursday, December 17 at 2:30 pm and 7 pm
Important jewellery
On view: from Monday 7 to Sunday 13 December 10 am to 7 pm
Catalogues available upon request: 33 1 53 30 30 30
and on <http://www.tajan.com> e-mail: tajan@worldnet.fr

Joaquin Torres García
From Nov. 20th
to Jan. 10th 1999
Printings & Drawings
Galerie J. Bastien Art
Rue de la Madeleine 61
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 513 25 63
Fax: +32 2 512 48 38

AMERICAN QUILTS
since 1820 - 1980
AUCTION
NOV. 29, at 14:30
LA VARENNE-ST HILAIRE
TEL: +33 (0)1 43 97 91 23
FAX: +33 (0)1 43 98 66 45

ART ON INTERNET
Private gallery of French art, gives you access to the masterpieces of century
French artists
<http://www.french-quality.fr>

GALERIE MERMOZ
PRE-COLUMBIAN ART
6, rue du Cirque - 75008 PARIS
Tel: +33 (0)1 42 25 84 80 Fax: +33 (0)1 40 75 03 90

OIL ON CANVAS
YOUR PORTRAIT, THE FOUNDER OF YOUR COMPANY OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY BY A HIGHLY EXPERIENCED HYPERREALIST STYLE PAINTER.
NO POSE NECESSARY
ONLY FROM COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS
INFORMATION AND PRICE RANGE
ON REQUEST. PARIS FRANCE
TEL: 33(0)1 40 30 27 05 - FAX: 33(0)1 40 30 27 17


For a Free copy of
The International Herald Tribune Art Guide
a compilation of galleries, museums, auctioneers...
In Paris write to: Enzo Lucifero
International Herald Tribune
81 avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France
In New York write to: Adele Grossman
International Herald Tribune
850 3rd Avenue - New York 10022

The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
Wide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

項目	1990年	1991年	1992年	1993年	1994年	1995年	1996年	1997年	1998年	1999年	2000年	2001年	2002年	2003年	2004年	2005年	2006年	2007年	2008年	2009年	2010年	2011年	2012年	2013年	2014年	2015年	2016年	2017年	2018年	2019年	2020年	2021年	2022年	2023年	2024年	2025年	2026年	2027年	2028年	2029年	2030年	2031年	2032年	2033年	2034年	2035年	2036年	2037年	2038年	2039年	2040年	2041年	2042年	2043年	2044年	2045年	2046年	2047年	2048年	2049年	2050年	2051年	2052年	2053年	2054年	2055年	2056年	2057年	2058年	2059年	2060年	2061年	2062年	2063年	2064年	2065年	2066年	2067年	2068年	2069年	2070年	2071年	2072年	2073年	2074年	2075年	2076年	2077年	2078年	2079年	2080年	2081年	2082年	2083年	2084年	2085年	2086年	2087年	2088年	2089年	2090年	2091年	2092年	2093年	2094年	2095年	2096年	2097年	2098年	2099年	2100年																																																																		
1. 人口	1,200,000	1,250,000	1,300,000	1,350,000	1,400,000	1,450,000	1,500,000	1,550,000	1,600,000	1,650,000	1,700,000	1,750,000	1,800,000	1,850,000	1,900,000	1,950,000	2,000,000	2,050,000	2,100,000	2,150,000	2,200,000	2,250,000	2,300,000	2,350,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	2,550,000	2,600,000	2,650,000	2,700,000	2,750,000	2,800,000	2,850,000	2,900,000	2,950,000	3,000,000	3,050,000	3,100,000	3,150,000	3,200,000	3,250,000	3,300,000	3,350,000	3,400,000	3,450,000	3,500,000	3,550,000	3,600,000	3,650,000	3,700,000	3,750,000	3,800,000	3,850,000	3,900,000	3,950,000	4,000,000	4,050,000	4,100,000	4,150,000	4,200,000	4,250,000	4,300,000	4,350,000	4,400,000	4,450,000	4,500,000	4,550,000	4,600,000	4,650,000	4,700,000	4,750,000	4,800,000	4,850,000	4,900,000	4,950,000	5,000,000	5,050,000	5,100,000	5,150,000	5,200,000	5,250,000	5,300,000	5,350,000	5,400,000	5,450,000	5,500,000	5,550,000	5,600,000	5,650,000	5,700,000	5,750,000	5,800,000	5,850,000	5,900,000	5,950,000	6,000,000	6,050,000	6,100,000	6,150,000	6,200,000	6,250,000	6,300,000	6,350,000	6,400,000	6,450,000	6,500,000	6,550,000	6,600,000	6,650,000	6,700,000	6,750,000	6,800,000	6,850,000	6,900,000	6,950,000	7,000,000	7,050,000	7,100,000	7,150,000	7,200,000	7,250,000	7,300,000	7,350,000	7,400,000	7,450,000	7,500,000	7,550,000	7,600,000	7,650,000	7,700,000	7,750,000	7,800,000	7,850,000	7,900,000	7,950,000	8,000,000	8,050,000	8,100,000	8,150,000	8,200,000	8,250,000	8,300,000	8,350,000	8,400,000	8,450,000	8,500,000	8,550,000	8,600,000	8,650,000	8,700,000	8,750,000	8,800,000	8,850,000	8,900,000	8,950,000	9,000,000	9,050,000	9,100,000	9,150,000	9,200,000	9,250,000	9,300,000	9,350,000	9,400,000	9,450,000	9,500,000	9,550,000	9,600,000	9,650,000	9,700,000	9,750,000	9,800,000	9,850,000	9,900,000	9,950,000	10,000,000

1	John Doe	35	M	Catholic	Married	Teacher	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
2	Jane Smith	28	F	Protestant	Single	Nurse	\$8,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
3	Robert Johnson	45	M	Jewish	Divorced	Engineer	\$12,000	\$60,000	\$25,000	\$35,000
4	Mary White	55	F	Buddhist	Widowed	Homemaker	\$6,000	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
5	David Brown	30	M	Muslim	Married	Student	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$8,000
6	Sarah Green	25	F	Hindu	Single	Artist	\$7,000	\$25,000	\$8,000	\$17,000
7	Michael Black	40	M	Sikh	Married	Doctor	\$15,000	\$70,000	\$30,000	\$40,000
8	Linda Gray	50	F	Atheist	Widowed	Retired	\$9,000	\$35,000	\$12,000	\$23,000
9	James Blue	38	M	Orthodox	Married	Lawyer	\$11,000	\$55,000	\$22,000	\$33,000
10	Karen Red	22	F	Unitarian	Single	Writer	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$12,000
11	Thomas Yellow	42	M	Deist	Married	Farmer	\$7,500	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
12	Patricia Purple	58	F	Scientologist	Widowed	Businesswoman	\$13,000	\$65,000	\$28,000	\$37,000
13	Christopher Orange	32	M	Pagan	Married	Software Developer	\$9,500	\$40,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
14	Michelle Pink	27	F	Voodoo	Single	Dancer	\$6,500	\$22,000	\$7,000	\$15,000
15	Andrew Silver	47	M	Rastafarian	Married	Musician	\$8,500	\$32,000	\$11,000	\$21,000
16	Stephanie Gold	52	F	Wiccan	Widowed	Consultant	\$10,500	\$45,000	\$18,000	\$27,000
17	Benjamin Bronze	37	M	Shinto	Married	Architect	\$11,500	\$52,000	\$21,000	\$31,000
18	Rebecca Copper	23	F	Taoist	Single	Model	\$7,000	\$28,000	\$9,000	\$19,000
19	Gregory Iron	43	M	Druid	Married	Historian	\$8,000	\$33,000	\$10,000	\$23,000
20	Angela Steel	53	F	Yogi	Widowed	Translator	\$9,000	\$38,000	\$13,000	\$25,000
21	Jonathan Tin	33	M	Zen Buddhist	Married	Journalist	\$10,000	\$42,000	\$16,000	\$26,000
22	Christina Lead	24	F	Chan Buddhist	Single	Designer	\$6,000	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$14,000
23	Timothy Zinc	44	M	Jain	Married	Analyst	\$8,500	\$31,000	\$11,000	\$20,000
24	Victoria Nickel	54	F	Sikhism	Widowed	Manager	\$9,500	\$36,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
25	William Cobalt	34	M	Buddhism	Married	Researcher	\$10,500	\$41,000	\$17,000	\$24,000
26	Elizabeth Manganese	26	F	Hinduism	Single	Actress	\$7,500	\$26,000	\$8,000	\$18,000
27	Charles Cadmium	46	M	Islam	Married	Professor	\$11,000	\$48,000	\$19,000	\$29,000
28	Barbara Selenium	56	F	Christianity	Widowed	Librarian	\$8,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
29	Richard Tellurium	36	M	Judaism	Married	Entrepreneur	\$12,500	\$58,000	\$24,000	\$34,000
30	Susan Iodine	28	F	Spiritualism	Single	Photographer	\$6,500	\$23,000	\$7,000	\$16,000
31	Joseph Bismuth	48	M	Neopaganism	Married	Writer	\$9,000	\$34,000	\$12,000	\$22,000
32	Kimberly Antimony	58	F	Eclecticism	Widowed	Consultant	\$10,000	\$39,000	\$14,000	\$25,000
33	Donald Arsenic	38	M	Hermeticism	Married	Developer	\$11,000	\$43,000	\$17,000	\$26,000
34	Carol Platinum	29	F	Santería	Single	Model	\$7,000	\$24,000	\$8,000	\$16,000
35	Edward Palladium	49	M	Candomblé	Married	Analyst	\$8,500	\$32,000	\$11,000	\$21,000
36	Frances Rhodium	59	F	Umbanda	Widowed	Manager	\$9,500	\$37,000	\$13,000	\$24,000
37	George Rhenium	39	M	Okinawan Religion	Married	Researcher	\$10,500	\$40,000	\$16,000	\$24,000
38	Helen Ruthenium	29	F	Shintoism	Single	Designer	\$6,000	\$21,000	\$6,000	\$15,000
39	Henry Rhodium	49	M	Buddhism	Married	Analyst	\$8,500	\$31,000	\$11,000	\$20,000
40	Irene Silver	59	F	Hinduism	Widowed	Manager	\$9,500	\$36,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
41	Jack Tin	39	M	Islam	Married	Professor	\$11,000	\$47,000	\$18,000	\$29,000
42	Kathleen Zinc	29	F	Christianity	Single	Librarian	\$8,0			

JB BLANCPAIN



THE NEW BLANCPAIN

...the most famous of the world's great watchmakers...

...the most famous of the world's great watchmakers...

THE NEW BLANCPAIN

...the most famous of the world's great watchmakers...

...the most famous of the world's great watchmakers...

THE NEW BLANCPAIN

...the most famous of the world's great watchmakers...

...the most famous of the world's great watchmakers...

[illegible]

Year	Month	Day	Time	Location	Event	Remarks
1911	Jan	1	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	2	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	3	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	4	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	5	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	6	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	7	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	8	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	9	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	10	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	11	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	12	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	13	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	14	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	15	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	16	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	17	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	18	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	19	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	20	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	21	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	22	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	23	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	24	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	25	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	26	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	27	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	28	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	29	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Jan	30	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Jan	31	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	1	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	2	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	3	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	4	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	5	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	6	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	7	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	8	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	9	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	10	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	11	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	12	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	13	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	14	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	15	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	16	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	17	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	18	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	19	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	20	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	21	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	22	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	23	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	24	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	25	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	26	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York
1911	Feb	27	10:00	St. Paul	Departure	To New York
1911	Feb	28	10:00	St. Paul	Arrival	From New York

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

2. The second part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

3. The third part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

4. The fourth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

5. The fifth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

6. The sixth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

7. The seventh part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

8. The eighth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

9. The ninth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

10. The tenth part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and addresses in the second column.

JB
1735

LANCPAIN

BLANCPAIN
SAT MAY

MOON PHASE
45 15 30 45
1987 1988

BLANCPAIN SA
1094 Pralognan, Switzerland
Tel ++41 21 796 36 36
Fax ++41 21 796 36 37

BLANCPAIN SA
1094 Paudex, Switzerland
Tel ++41 21 796 36 36
Fax ++41 21 796 36 37

[illegible]

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

[illegible][illegible]

Continued on Page 16

...tion
...pens in
...Kong

The

Japan
11-1

CURRENCY

Recession Deepens in Hong Kong

GDP Shrinks at 7% Rate, Sharpest Drop on Record

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — In the worst performance since it began keeping records nearly four decades ago, Hong Kong said Friday that its economy shrank by an estimated 7 percent annual rate in the third quarter.

But officials here said that the region's downturn might be at its low point, citing forecasts by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that the economic output would rebound in the second half of 1999.

The Hong Kong economy has been shrinking at an accelerating rate since the first quarter, as the Asian financial crisis pummeled retail sales, exports, tourism and domestic consumption.

"These were quite depressing figures," said Sir Donald Tsang, the financial secretary of Hong Kong.

But Sir Donald expressed guarded optimism, saying that the government expected a full-year decline of 5 percent in the economy, implying that gross domestic product would decline by less than a 7 percent rate in the next quarter.

"We have to go through what I call a psychological barrier," said Sir Donald, noting that Hong Kong probably faces two more quarters of negative performance before the tide finally turns.

Despite the numbers, the Hong Kong stock market barely wavered Friday, with the benchmark Hang Seng index edging down 36.81 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 10,732. Investors disregarded Hong Kong's fundamentals, preferring to focus on recent cuts in interest rates here and in the United States, which they believe will reignite consumer demand.

"Yesterday we had a historic low in export figures and the market went up; today we had a historic low in economic output, and the market barely moved," said Dong Tao, senior regional economist at Credit Suisse First Boston in Hong Kong. "The market is simply ignoring all the bad news."

Real estate prices have rebounded even more dramatically than the stock market. An index that tracks the shares of leading property developers is up 90.7 percent in the last two months, the sharpest increase ever in a two-month period, according to a report by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

Experts are divided on what the disparity between the markets and the underlying economy means. Some say the improved sentiment will lift the economy, as Hong Kong has always been fueled by intangible factors like consumer confidence. Others say the rising property and share prices merely delay what will be a painful and unavoidable economic adjustment.


"Hong Kong is on a placebo therapy," Mr. Tao said. "The improved sentiment is a good thing. But placebos are just sugar pills. They cannot really cure the disease in a fundamental way."

More pessimistic observers said the buoyant markets would allow Hong Kong to avoid reducing its costs, which are the highest in Asia and put it at a competitive disadvantage. Singapore, which is vying with Hong Kong to be the financial hub of East Asia, adopted a package of wage and pension reductions this week that will carve \$6.5 billion in costs out of its economy.

"The recovery in Hong Kong will be the slowest in the region simply because the price levels haven't fully adjusted," said Marc Faber, chairman of Marc Faber Ltd., a Hong Kong investment advisory firm. He said the region's high costs were already hurting in areas like shipping. He noted that container traffic in Singapore, a mainland city across the border from Hong Kong, had grown 90 percent so far this year, while traffic in Hong Kong's port rose only marginally.



Beyond cutting costs, analysts said there was little Hong Kong could do to hasten its recovery. With an economy heavily reliant on trade, they said Hong Kong's future depended very much on the health of its trading partners, primarily China, the United States and Japan.

A Possible Colossus



EXXON Mobil

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Lucio Noto
HEADQUARTERS: Fairfax, Virginia
EMPLOYEES: 42,700
1997 REVENUE: \$58.4 billion
1997 NET INCOME: \$2.3 billion



Sources: Hoover's Handbook; Bloomberg Financial Markets

The Era of 'Unthinkable' Mergers

Global Pressures Brought Exxon and Mobil to the Table

By Allen R. Myerson and Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Whether or not the talks between Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp. lead to a takeover or some other business combination, America's economic history is already being rewritten.

In energy, as in businesses like financial services, telecommunications and automobiles, global competition and technology have made unthinkable combinations practical, even necessary.

Oil companies like Exxon and Mobil have an additional pressure: Crude oil prices have fallen sharply, plunging 40 percent just this year to levels, adjusted for inflation, not seen since before the first oil embargo 25 years ago.

As such, the oil companies, having spent years cutting their costs, are desperate for further savings in order to continue operating profitably.

Exxon and Mobil are the two largest, strongest competitors to emerge from the most famous U.S. antitrust case, the 1911 breakup of John D. Rockefeller Sr.'s Standard Oil Trust. The companies' combined Friday that Exxon was discussing taking over Mobil, and their stocks rose sharply. Mobil shares closed \$7.875 higher at \$86.25 on the New York Stock Exchange, and Exxon finished up \$4 at \$76.6875.

The giants face a Royal Dutch/Shell Group that is larger than either of them. They will also confront a British Petroleum PLC made far more potent in the United States by its agreement this summer to buy Amoco Corp. for \$48.2 billion. Industry executives say further deals on this scale are inevitable.

If Exxon and Mobil agree to become one, antitrust regulators are likely to be cautious about putting back together much of what they long ago broke apart. Even so, most oil industry analysts contend that improved efficiency from combining giant energy companies would do more to lower costs than the more concentrated ownership of gas stations and refineries would do to raise them.

"The ultimate beneficiary of all this will be the consumer," said Daniel Yergin, chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

If Exxon and Mobil ultimately do combine, the costs could prove heaviest for energy industry employees. Analysts say that thousands of the about 80,000 global employees at Exxon, based in Irving, Texas, and the more than 40,000 at Mobil, in Fairfax, Virginia, would be likely to lose their jobs.

Exxon, with Lee Raymond, and Mobil, with Lucio Noto, both have chief executives who have been preoccupied with the humbling accommodations that low oil prices have made necessary.

Oil companies were everybody's favorite targets during the trust-busting era early this century and again during the Arab oil embargoes of the 1970s. Now they seem especially vulnerable as demand weakens in much of the world, especially in economically troubled Asia, weighing further on already depressed prices.

"They're pitiful, helpless giants," said Ronald Chernow, author of "Titan," a biography of Rockefeller.

As such, these giants are compelled to continue cutting costs and spreading the risks of their huge, expensive international projects that are needed to develop oil reserves needed for the next century.

Mobil, with \$58.4 billion in sales last year, might seem large enough to undertake anything. But in competing for rights to develop huge natural gas fields in Turkmenistan, a former Soviet republic, Mobil was unable to match Shell's offer to build a pipeline for \$1 billion or more.

Oil companies have decided that they cannot count on a rebound in oil prices to revive their fortunes any time soon. The Energy Department predicted this month that the collapse of Asian demand would continue to depress oil prices for nearly a decade, and by as much as \$5.50 a barrel in 2000. On Thursday, the Organization of Petroleum

See EXXON, Page 12

Barclays Chief Resigns Amid Earnings Slump

Shakeup and Dim Forecast Fuel Merger Talk

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Barclays Bank PLC announced the sudden resignation of its chief executive Friday and a big downgrade of its second-half earnings estimate, news that sent the bank's stock price plummeting and fueled talk of a possible merger or takeover.

The exit of Martin Taylor, regarded as the wunderkind of British banking when he took over as chief executive five years ago, fanned speculation about management divisions over strategy.

It followed recent reports that Mr. Taylor was considering a major reorganization that would split the bank's retail activities from its wholesale banking division, which is the second-largest lender to British industry. It also came amid signs of renewed problems at the bank's capital markets subsidiary, Barclays Capital, which was supposed to have been restored by a major downsizing a year ago.

"One has to assume there's been a reasonably substantial strategic disagreement," said Michael Lever, an analyst at HSBC Securities. "It is vulnerable, though it is a big bank in market capitalization terms." That capitalization stands at about £20 billion (\$33.22 billion), making Barclays' sheer size its best protection from any unwanted takeover, analysts said.

Barclays turned to Sir Peter Middleton, who stepped down as deputy chairman in April, to serve as interim chief executive. Sir Peter took back the title of deputy chairman and will succeed Andrew Buxton as chairman when a new chief executive can be found.

Sir Peter dismissed the talks of a management rift and said Mr. Taylor was leaving to "recharge his batteries" after a tough five years at the helm. "There was no conflict with the board," he said.

He also played down merger speculation, saying the bank was "enormously profitable" and had no such plans under active consideration. "We don't need a deal to straighten ourselves out," he said.

Analysts have suggested a possible link with such retail-oriented lenders as Halifax PLC and Abbey National PLC or the insurer Prudential Corp. Mr. Taylor himself did little to stop speculation a year ago of a possible merger with another big bank, National Westminster Bank PLC, although most industry ex-



Martin Taylor quit Barclays Friday.

ecutives maintained that British antitrust regulators would oppose such a move.

Sir Peter said the bank was reviewing Barclays Capital and might take action to reduce its risk profile, but he denied that the division was on the chopping block.

"We're not selling it, dismantling it or throwing it away," he said.

Sir Peter was a former chairman of BZW, which was partly dismantled and renamed Barclays Capital by Mr. Taylor last year.

The combination of the shakeup, the prospect that management uncertainty will persist for months and the earnings downgrade, sent the bank's share price sharply lower. The shares fell £1.06, or 7.1 percent, to £13.78 on the London Stock Exchange.

Barclays said it expected to report a pretax profit of not less than £1.9 billion for 1998. Given that the bank posted a profit of £1.29 billion in the first half, that indicated a dramatic decline in the second, much of which appears to stem from Barclays Capital, analysts said.

The bank took a £425 million write-off last year to sell the equity and corporate advisory business of BZW and pursue a niche role, as Barclays Capital, as a trader and underwriter of bond issues.

But that pared-down strategy began to look ragged two months ago when Barclays Capital announced it was setting aside £250 million for likely losses on its exposure to Russia. Analysts say the bank may have suffered further losses during the financial market turmoil in September and October, including the near collapse of the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management LP.

Central Bank Chief Hints European Rates May Fall

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The president of the European Central Bank hinted Friday at the prospect for a reduction in interest rates, saying that inflation appeared set to stay at historically low levels and that the bank was prepared to play a role in promoting growth and employment.

The official, Wim Duisenberg, also sought to play down suggestions of a rift with finance ministers on budgetary policy, saying that at a meeting earlier this week ministers from the 11 countries that will have the euro gave an "unequivocal and unambiguous" commitment to respect the deficit ceilings in Europe's stability pact.

"For me, that was enough," he said.

Speaking at a conference here, Mr. Duisenberg emphasized that the central bank's monetary policy was a limited tool that could not generate jobs directly but could "create an environment of stability" conducive to employment.

Given those limits, he said, "in specific circumstances, if production, inflation and employment all move in the same direction, monetary policy can play some role in stabilizing output and employment growth without endangering price stability."

The comments followed a string of weaker economic data in recent weeks, particularly from France and Germany, and helped to fuel speculation on financial markets that rate cuts were imminent.

"Duisenberg is softening his tone somewhat," said Mark Cliffe, senior European economist at ING Barings in London. "At least he's not ruling anything out" in terms of lower rates, he added.

"The case to cut rates is quite strong," said Philippe Brossard, an economist at ABN AMRO in Paris.

Bond prices rallied strongly across Europe on Mr. Duisenberg's comments,

pushing long-term interest rates down to almost 4 percent, while European currencies, whose attractiveness is reduced by lower rates, weakened against the dollar.

The French government reported Thursday that the economy expanded by 0.5 percent in the third quarter, or by only 0.3 percent when adjusted for the effect of extra working days, while the IFO survey of German business expectations fell sharply in October. The indicators suggested that the growth rate of Europe's two leading economies has fallen well below 2 percent.

"A lot of the information we're getting from business surveys suggest that the corporate sector is getting more cautious about the growth outlook for next year, and that would have an impact on investment plans and employment plans," said Richard Reid, a senior economist at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette International in London. "There's nothing in the way of any inflation worries out there."

Mr. Duisenberg appeared relatively sanguine about growth, saying that although it would be slower next year it would remain sufficient to sustain job growth in Europe. But he noted that inflation in the euro area was just 1 percent and would remain at a level consistent with price stability in 1999.

The question for analysts is when, not whether, European rates will come down.

Most economists believe rates in the euro-11 countries will converge at the German and French level of 3.3 percent at the end of this year, followed by a reduction to 3 percent in the first quarter of next year from the European Central Bank. The recovery of European stock markets and the decline of the mark against the dollar has removed some of the pressure for an early cut, and Mr. Duisenberg and his colleagues may want to move cautiously to demonstrate their independence in the face of recent calls for lower rates from Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine of Germany.

Japan's Finance Minister Says He'll Step Down by Year's End

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, a key figure in efforts to revive Japan's economy and stave off a global recession, said Friday that he would step down formally from political leadership role, and thus from his cabinet post, at the end of this year.

Such a move, apparently in the works for a while, may raise questions about Japan's economic policy, in part because Mr. Miyazawa had more credibility and connections with the West than other Japanese politicians. But it is unlikely that Mr. Miyazawa's resignation would lead to dramatic changes in Japanese economic policy, and he may well continue to exert economic influence from behind the scenes.



Mr. Miyazawa is one of Japan's two most influential politicians.

leader of his political faction within the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

In some ways, the departure from formal politics of Mr. Miyazawa, who is 79, reflects a generational shift that has been taking hold in the last few years.

Mr. Miyazawa has been considered one of the two most influential politicians in Japan, along with Noboru Takeshita, who still has a strong grip on the political strategy behind the scenes. Within the Liberal Democratic Party, Mr. Miyazawa's resignation will make way for Koichi Kato, 59, who will take over Mr. Miyazawa's faction and become a candidate for prime minister in the future.

Politicians like Mr. Kato have been exerting greater influence on major policy and personnel decisions, and it was partly because of his opposition that the Liberal Democrats rejected proposals to stimulate the economy by cutting the national consumption tax.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Nov. 27									
Cross Rates									
	US\$	DM	FF	Yen	GBP	HK\$	NT\$	INR	Other
Australia	1.55	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22
Canada	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
France	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93
Italy	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93
Japan	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00
UK	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
US	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Other	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Nov. 27									
Libor-Libor Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
US\$	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
DM	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
FF	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Yen	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
GBP	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
HK\$	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
NT\$	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
INR	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Other	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Nov. 27									
Key Money Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
US\$	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
DM	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
FF	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Yen	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
GBP	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
HK\$	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
NT\$	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
INR	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Other	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

Lost your MasterCard® card? Can't find a cash machine? Help is just one call away.

For 24-hour cardholder assistance, call MasterCard Global Service™. Anytime. Anywhere. Any language.

Call toll-free: United Kingdom: 0800-96-4767 Germany: 0130-81-9104
France: 0-800-90-1387 Italy: 1678-70866 Spain: 900-97-1231

MasterCard

Technology Stocks Power Nasdaq to Record



ASIA/PACIFIC

ADB Sees Rebound Next Year

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MANILA — Most Asian economies will recover from recession next year as currencies stabilize, though many countries will need to strengthen their banks before they can return to rapid growth, the Asian Development Bank said Friday.

The region is likely to see economic growth of 3.5 percent in 1999, the ADB said, almost double the rate this year.

"The crisis has bottomed out," said Christopher Walker, a bank economist, at a conference to discuss regional prospects.

But a quick return to former growth rates—approaching 10 percent—is unlikely, the ADB said.

The bank, owned by governments in the region, downplayed the depth of the slump, saying weak banking systems had made Asian economies vulnerable to capital flight. It slashed its April forecasts for economic growth but said the worst was past for most countries.

That view is shared by the International Monetary Fund, which put together billions of dollars in loans to resuscitate economies in Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea. The ADB contributed to those rescue packages.

"The Asia-crisis countries are forming the base for a recovery in 1999," said David Nellor, the IMF assistant director for the Asia-Pacific region. "But the reform process is going to be a long-life process."

The ADB said that while some currency and equity markets staged partial recoveries this year, "bad loan rates kept rising in 1998 as corporate failures exacerbated banking sector problems."

"As long as international capital markets remain shaky, developing countries in Asia and the world will appear vulnerable to investor panic," the report said. (AFP, Bloomberg)

Low Oil Prices Help Make or Break Recovery

Energy Importers Stand to Benefit, While Exporters Face Bleak Prospects

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Depressed international oil prices, driven to 22-year lows by falling demand, could hasten recovery in energy-importing Asian countries while worsening the plight of several petroleum exporters in the region, particularly Indonesia, officials and analysts say.

"Contracting economies in Asia, although partly responsible for the falling prices, are also major gainers, being large net importers of oil and products," Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Securities (Singapore) Pte., said in a recent report.

Major beneficiaries of the low prices include India, China, Taiwan and Singapore. They are substantial oil importers whose currencies are either pegged to the U.S. dollar, or have fallen far less in value than other Asian currencies since the regional financial crisis began in July 1997.

"If oil prices had remained at \$20 a barrel, the Asian economies would have been in much worse shape," said John Russell, managing director of Petroleum Economics Ltd. in Bangkok.

Oil and the products of oil refineries, such as gasoline and diesel fuel, are priced in dollars when traded internationally.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Securities, a unit of Dresdner Bank AG of Germany, said that lower oil prices could increase industrial growth in India by up to 4 percent a year and would also give a major lift to Indian refineries and energy intensive sectors of the economy, such as cement, metal manufacturing and transport.

India alone is expected to save nearly \$1 billion on crude oil imports this year, almost one-fifth of the \$5.1 billion it spent on oil in 1997.

Singapore cut its gasoline excise tax by 6 percentage points Wednesday, to 40 percent, and removed

a tax on diesel fuel as part of a package of cost-cutting measures amounting to 10.5 billion Singapore dollars (\$6.41 billion) a year to help pull the island-state out of recession and sharpen its competitive edge against lower-cost neighbors.

For other Asian petroleum importers, including Japan, South Korea and Thailand, the decline in oil prices will only help counterbalance the drop in the dollar value of their currencies.

In Thailand, for example, the baht's dollar-purchasing power is down about 40 percent since July 1997. Over the same period, the dollar value of oil has dropped 37 percent.

Thailand has saved foreign exchange in the past year by having electricity-generating plants that used imported oil switch over to locally produced natural gas.

"Thailand plans a further 80 percent reduction in fuel oil use during

the next three years," said John Imle, president of Unocal Corp., which operates Thai gas fields that generate 40 percent of the country's electricity.

So far this year, the price of benchmark North Sea Brent crude oil has averaged \$13.66 a barrel, a lower price than at any time since 1976. In recent days, it has been trading below \$11 a barrel, and most oil experts expect prices to stay low into next year, possibly longer.

This is bad news for Indonesia, the leading Asian oil exporter and the only East Asian member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"Current oil prices are too low," said the Indonesian mines and energy minister, Kuntoro Mangkusubroto. "The revenue from oil is very important for Indonesia. We want to see the oil price higher."

More than in any other Asian country, oil and gas play a pivotal role in the Indonesian economy, now in the midst of its worst recession in more than 30 years.

In the year to March 1997, before the financial crisis struck, petroleum accounted for 8 percent of gross domestic product, 18 percent of government revenue and 24 percent of export earnings.

The current government budget is based on an average oil price of \$13 per barrel. If the price turns out to be lower, the large deficit will increase.

Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam, the region's other net oil exporters, are also being hurt by low prices, but not nearly as much as Indonesia, either because they are less dependent on the petroleum sector or because their finances are stronger.

Asia imported about 12 million barrels of oil a day in 1997, mainly from the Middle East. Indigenous production was about 7 million barrels a day.

Feresidun Fesharaki, director of the energy program at the East-West Center in Hawaii, said oil consumption figures so far this year indicated demand for 1998 would decline by about 360,000 barrels per day from 1997 — the first yearly fall since 1982.

"Oil demand would have been even lower had oil prices not declined," he noted.

Mr. Fesharaki said Asian oil demand would rebound by 2000, to a rate about 700,000 barrels per day higher than in 1997.

Philippine Economy 'Bottoms Out'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MANILA — The Philippine gross domestic product contracted 0.1 percent in the three months to September, officially putting the country into recession, the government reported Friday.

It was the second successive quarterly GDP decline after a revised 0.8 percent contraction in the three months to June.

But the decline was smaller than many analysts had expected because an expansion in services and consumer spending offset dwindling farm output.

"In a sea of very negative growth in the region, this is actually very, very positive news," said the secretary of the Socioeconomic Planning Department, Felipe Medalla. "The economy has bottomed out."

Philippine stocks rallied, driving the benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index up 54.43 points, or 2.8 percent, to 1,975.36.

The government said agricultural output, which accounts for one-fifth of the economy, fell 5.5 percent in the third quarter as bad weather pummeled crops. A broader measure of output that includes fisheries

and forestry shrank 3.1 percent.

Industrial production contracted 1.7 percent in the third quarter, pulled down by a 15 percent drop in construction. Rising bad loans made banks reluctant to extend credit, halting housing construction.

Manufacturing rose 0.9 percent in the third quarter. It was propped up by an expansion in food output and electrical machinery, especially microcircuits that make up more than half of the country's exports.

Offsetting the industrial and agriculture slumps was the service in-

dustry, the largest part of the economy, which expanded 2.6 percent.

In the past few years, the government has deregulated key sections of the economy such as telecommunications and transportation, leading to an investment boom.

Gross national product, which includes remittances from some 4 million Filipinos working abroad, rose 0.8 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier.

The revised GNP growth figure for the second quarter was 0.3 percent. (AFP, Bloomberg)

Bonds That Pay Off in Video Games

Bloomberg News

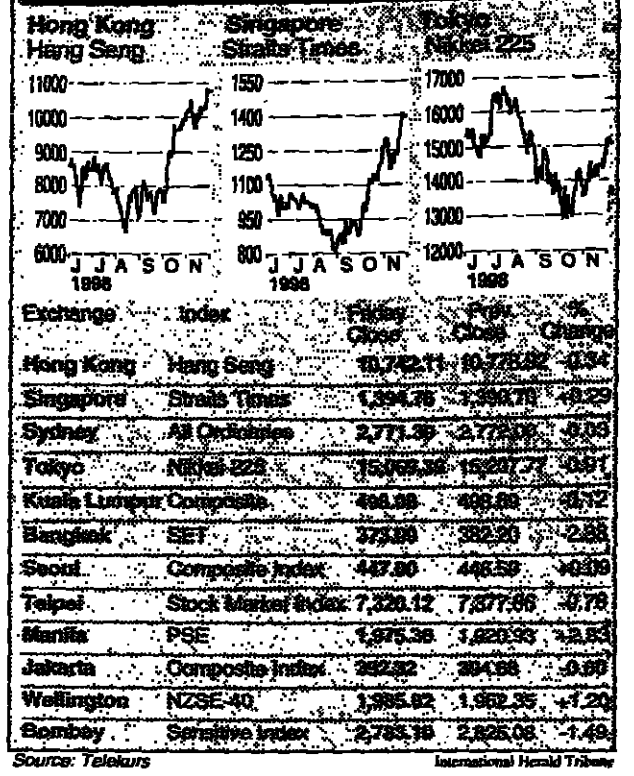
TOKYO — Sega Enterprises Ltd., seeking to capitalize on publicity surrounding the release of its new video-game machine, is selling 10 billion yen (\$82.2 million) in "Dreamcast" bonds.

The 2.15 percent, three-year bonds come with a commemorative 500-yen cash card usable at convenience stores and gasoline stations, along with a chance to

win Dreamcast game machines and other prizes.

Dreamcast, which went on sale Friday, replaces the failed Saturn system. Sega hopes the new machine, which features faster graphics and access to the Internet, will lift its estimated 5 percent share of the \$15 billion video-game market dominated by Sony Corp.'s PlayStation and Nintendo Co.'s Nintendo64.

Investor's Asia



Very briefly:

• Malaysia's economy is expected to report Saturday its sharpest contraction ever for the third quarter. Gross domestic product is expected to have shrunk 7.8 percent in the July to September quarter, according to a survey of five economists.

• Japan's jobless rate was stuck at a record high 4.3 percent in October for the third straight month, the government said.

• Taiwan's government said new interest rate cuts are on the way. The announcement followed a jump in the interbank interest rate, which climbed as high as 7.25 percent Friday, compared with the average this month of 5.35 percent.

• Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.'s first-half profit rose 3.4 percent, to 997.6 million Singapore dollars (\$609.1 million), not including a 4.7 million charge against a write-down of investments. The largest Singapore company warned that profit for the second half would be weaker.

• Kia Motors Corp. said it would resume production Tuesday, aided by rising orders and lower inventories. The South Korean automaker suspended production of some assembly lines on Monday for at least a week because of sluggish sales.

• Thailand said regional securities regulators had agreed this week to establish a panel to monitor activities of global hedge funds. The Asia-Pacific Regional Committee of the International Organization of Securities Commissions took the step in a bid to maintain stability in regional capital markets.

• China plans to cut steel imports by more than 40 percent next year after a weakening in demand raised inventories and reduced earnings at state-owned companies.

• Australia's ban on mergers between its four biggest banks is still in place, though it could be reviewed, Financial Services Minister Joe Hockey said. National Australia Bank Ltd. has lobbied the government to drop the ban. Newspapers have reported that the bank might bid for Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters, Bridge News

THE WORLD'S MOST EXTENSIVE NEWS-GATHERING NETWORK

The International Herald Tribune is owned by The New York Times and The Washington Post, America's two most prestigious newspapers.

In addition to having instant access to their coverage, we have assembled a staff of selected journalists all over the world to bring you a view that is distinctly multinational.

And with the availability of every

newswire service, it all adds up to the world's most extensive news-gathering network.

No other publication can match our resources.

So if you're interested in commerce, in finance, in industry, in politics, or if you need to know what the world's strongest economy thinks about events in the rest of the world,

make sure you get your copy of the International Herald Tribune. Every day.

To subscribe, call us at:

Europe/

Middle East/Africa : +33 1 41 43 93 61

Asia : +852 29 22 11 71

The Americas : +800 882 2884

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Friday's 1 P.M.

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

12 Month		Stock	Div	Yld	PE	P/B	High	Low	Last	Change
A-B-C										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154
155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165
166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187
188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198
199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209
210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220
221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231
232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242
243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253
254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264
265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275
276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286
287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297
298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308
309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319
320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330
331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341
342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352
353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363
364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374
375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385
386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396
397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407
408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418
419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429
430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451
452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462
463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473
474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484
485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495
496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506
507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517
518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528
529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539
540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550
551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561
562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572
573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583
584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594
595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605
606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616
617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627
628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638
639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649
650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660
661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671
672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682
683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693
694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704
705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715
716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726
727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737
738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748
749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759
760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770
771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781
782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792
793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803
804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814
815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825
826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836
837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847
848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858
859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869
870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880
881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891
892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902
903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913
914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924
925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935
936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946
947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957
958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968
969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979
980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001
1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012
1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023
1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034
1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045
1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056
1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067
1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078
1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089
1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100
1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111
1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122
1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133
1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144
1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155
1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166
1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177
1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188
1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199
1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210
1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221
1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232
1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243
1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254
1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265
1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276
1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287
1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298
1299	1300	1301	1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309
1310	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320
1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331
1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342
1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	1353
1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364
1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374	1375
1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	1386
1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397
1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406	1407	1408
1409	1410	1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417	1418	1419
1420	1421	1422	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	1428	1429	1430
1431	1									

Sl. No.	Name of the Candidate	Grade	Rank	Remarks
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Friday's 1 P.M. Close

(Continued)

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Retail Ban

ing Power, in a Stock-Picking Firm

1. 凡在本行存款，利息按季结息，到期还本付息。

Will Retail Banking's High-Tech Future Mean Writing Off Checks?

Globally, Sector Is Shifting From Paper To a New Generation of Alternatives

By Andrew Blum

THE CITIBANK advertisement in The New York Times was clear, if a little surprising: "Pay 2 bills on-line. Get \$25." A bank giving away money? This was not a typographical error, but a hard sales pitch for what many see as the future of retail banking: Faced with increasing competition and similarly increasing costs, banks such as Citibank are using incentives to lure customers away from checks and into cheaper, technology-based alternatives.

By definition, checks are orders to a bank to move funds. Banks and billers spend billions of dollars processing and mailing checking statements and bills, so they, naturally, are on the outlook for cheaper alternatives.

Diamond Technology Partners, a management consulting firm in Chicago, figures that total costs for the billing and processing system in the United States alone range from \$5 to \$15 per bill. The firm figures that there are 37 billion bills mailed each year, so using a \$10 average, that's \$370 billion. Electronic billing and payment technology can cut 10 percent off total costs, the firm said. (On the other hand, bill issuers would pay 40 cents per item for electronic presentation, a total of \$15 billion, Diamond Technology adds.)

The math is attractive from the consumer side as well. The average person may spend an hour a month paying bills and writing checks—not to mention the money spent on stamps and registered mail.

Yet there are still about 70 billion checks written per year in the United States alone, where almost all the 194 million adults have checking accounts. In France, where checks are the most popular form of account settlement, half the checks written are for amounts less than 300 francs, or about \$50.

By some estimates, it could be 40 years or two generations before checks vanish, since to people of a certain age they provide unimpeachable evidence of a transaction: a paper record. There is probably more emotion than legality at

work here. No less a stickler than the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, for example, will accept credit records and bank withdrawal slips as proof of an expenditure, in addition to cancelled checks. Most big banks will provide paper proof of a transaction on request.

James Zogby, an advisor for First Allied Securities Inc. and a former executive at the insurance holding company RLJ, sees the issue as generational.

"I expect checks to stay around because a large segment of people over 65 want to see a piece of paper of some sort," he said. "To go paperless is extremely difficult."

Mr. Zogby, who is also a professor of risk management and investment at Illinois Central College in Peoria, Illinois, said the 45-to-65 age group is in transition. But it is the 30-to-45 age group that knows computers and "trusts them and allows paperless transactions," he said.

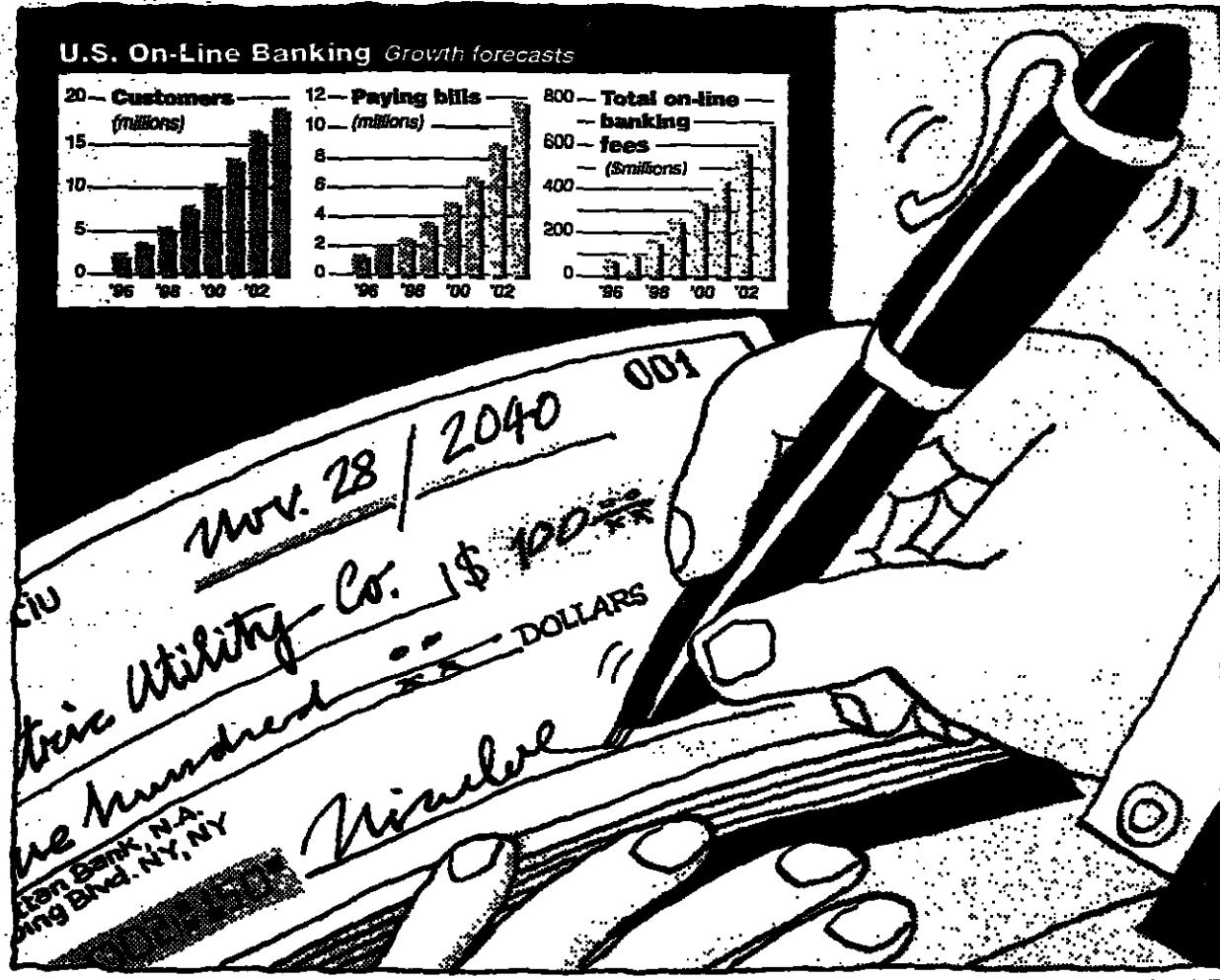
"These are people who use debit cards," he added. "The generation after them will not remember what a check is."

The future of payment alternatives can already be seen in practice in some areas of the world. In many parts of Europe, debit cards are more popular than checks, and in Japan cash is king.

And while some countries such as Mexico have instruments that resemble checks—such as drafts from "private bankers"—checks are still largely viewed as an Anglo-Saxon phenomenon. That is why expatriates from North America are the target market for banks pushing checking alternatives.

In addition to on-line banking, the alternatives include:

- Debit cards, which act as an electronic check, allowing a customer to pay for goods and services by automatically deducting the amount from a checking account.
- "Smart" cards, with embedded computer chips, which allow customers to transfer funds from a bank account to the cards at ATMs. The idea is to spend the funds at selected stores, which in theory should make small, routine purchases go quicker. So far, though, bank tests of the idea have failed in New York



because the cards were not widely accepted by merchants, and credit card companies report similar experiences in parts of Canada and Britain.

Electronic payment and presentment, which encompasses a variety of ways to pay bills without checks. The race is on among banks, billers and electronic commerce companies to allow a customer to be billed on-line and to then pay the bills the same way.

The alternatives do not come cheap. George Barto, an on-line banking analyst at Inteco Corp., a consumer research firm in Norwalk, Connecticut, has found that on-line banking carries an average fee of \$5.71 a month, depending on the risk. Inteco defines on-line banking as

viewing balances, transferring money between accounts, paying bills from checking accounts and viewing credit-card activity and/or making credit-card payments from checking accounts.

Companies in the market are betting such fees will be worth it to customers.

On-line banking provides 24-hour, 7-day a week access to accounts, said Randy Kahn, president of First Data Direct Banking, a unit of First Data Corp. that develops Web sites for banks geared to on-line banking. So far, his company has 50 banks as customers in the United States.

But the lack of widespread electronic payment capability is one reason why talk is still of the future, he said.

"Checks are not going to disappear overnight until the payment system is in place," he said. "We're not there yet."

Mr. Barto acknowledged that there had been talk for 20 years of a checkless, paperless society. And indeed, it took from the early 1960s to late 1970s for automated teller machines to gain widespread public acceptance.

As the global banking giants face competition from these alternatives—and from the growing number of non-bank financial institutions, such as brokerages and insurers, that offer checking as part of their package of services—they are left with a tough choice: Bear "em or join 'em."

Citibank, the world's third-biggest

bank in terms of assets, is poised for what it sees as a chance to get Internet-based banking and investing in 100-odd countries worldwide.

Citibank recently announced a new on-line system aimed first at the U.S. market, then expanding to other countries where it does business. Mr. Barto sees Citibank's move as one without borders.

"One of the things they tout with on-line banking capability via the Internet is that you can open a checking account with them and use it anywhere in the world," he said. "They see an opportunity to get business worldwide."

Citibank is also a minority equity investor in TransPoint, an Internet bill delivery/payment joint venture between Microsoft Corp. and First Data Corp. A pilot of that system will be held with several financial institutions.

Chase Manhattan, which has 3 million checking account customers, is also pushing alternatives. Although it only has 250,000 on-line banking customers and a "smart card" pilot bombed in New York City, Chase says the Internet and on-line banking is the future, especially for expatriate banking.

Unlike Citibank, which has retail branches abroad, Chase only has them in several American states. But according to Robin Klein, a senior vice president, and Evianne Cowing, vice president-cross-border businesses, Chase is widening checking alternatives.

Currently, it targets two groups abroad—expatriates and non-resident aliens, offering those 67,000 customers checking and other products. With a U.S.-based account, a customer can have bills paid for \$150 a year, use wire transfers and bank at 285,000 Citrus network ATMs worldwide. Checks are a rarity from these customers.

For those using checks, Chase is about to launch check imaging on statements, Ms. Klein said. Aimed at reducing fraud and costs, "what you see is a copy of the check on the statement," she said.

Elsewhere, Chase sees promise, too. It has 250,000 domestic on-line banking customers—for security reasons it cannot ship its software overseas—but believes electronic banking is the future there.

"We believe the Internet and on-line banking are the future of doing business with these clients," Ms. Cowing said.

Staying Power, in the System or Out

With Any Stock-Picking Formula, Patience Is the Key Virtue

THE VALUE OF a stock-picking system is that it's a discipline: If you keep following the same formula, over and over, then you will make good profits.

So why is Michael O'Higgins, money manager of the Dow 10, has added bonds and Treasury bills to that elegant and beloved system. He has become a market timer!

Meanwhile, a new Dow-based system has caught my eye. It was invented by Kenneth Lee, author of a new book, "Tromping the Dow." While a bit complicated for my taste, Mr. Lee's system seems to have significant advantages over the original Dow 10—mainly, that it is built on a buy-and-hold philosophy.

The Dow 10, also called "Dogs of the Dow," works this way: Put equal amounts of money in the 10 stocks with the highest current dividend yields among the 30 stocks in the Dow Jones industrial average. Repeat 12 months. Sell the stocks, and repeat the process.

These Dogs really work. In his book, "Retire Rich," James O'Shaughnessy tracked the system from 1952 to 1996 and found that an initial investment of \$10,000 grew to \$6.6 million, while \$10,000 in the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index grew to only \$1.7 million.

Still, the last few years have not been so felicitous. In 1997, the system returned 18.5 percent, compared with 25.0 percent for the complete Dow 30. And, through Nov. 25, the Dow 10 has returned just 13.3 percent for the full Dow and 22.3 percent for the S&P.

Is this reason to change? Of course not. The Dow 10 has beaten the S&P in 28 of the past 46 years, returning an annual average of three percentage points more than the benchmark—and at lower volatility.

But that is not good enough for Mr. O'Higgins—or for Tom and David Gardner, who oversee The Motley Fool, the popular financial Web site. The Gardner brothers invented several variations on the Dow 10, most prominently the Foolish Four. Now, they have revised even that one.

As for Mr. O'Higgins, his new system, as Barron's reported in a distressing article last week, calls for investors to pull out of stocks entirely when the average yield on AAA-rated corporate bonds exceeds the "earnings yield" (that is, the inverse of the price-to-earnings ratio) on the S&P.

According to this formula, you should be in bonds right now. But which bonds? Well, if the price of gold is down from a year ago (which it was last week by a few dollars), then, ac-

cording to Mr. O'Higgins, it's an indication that yields will be falling, so you should buy long-term zero-coupon Treasury bonds. If gold is up, then buy one-year Treasury bills.

I hope you have not been taking notes. You should not actually follow this roscoco exercise. I am laying it out to show where impatience can lead.

Mr. O'Higgins does point out that his new Dogs-and-Bonds system, as described in his new book, "Beating the Dow With Bonds," returned an annual average of 23.8 percent from the end of 1968 through September 1998, while the Dogs alone returned just 18.0 percent.

JAMES K. GLASSMAN ON INVESTING

Well, yes, but, through back-testing, you can find loads of systems that beat the Dow (and the Dogs). For example, I could propose a system that calls for buying every 50th stock listed alphabetically in the tables (50th, 100th, 150th, etc.). I could test it back 20 years and find that, alas, it returns only 15 percent. Next, I could try a series beginning with the 51st stock (51st, 102d, 153d, etc.). That one might score historical returns of 19 percent.

With infinite stock-picking formulas, several will look great when back-tested. But they are useless without a sensible underlying principle.

For the Dogs of the Dow, that principle is value. The reason the Dogs system works is that it is applied to the 30 Dow stocks, all of which are solid citizens. They can fall out of favor with Mr. Market, but they usually have the balance sheets and management talent to survive and prosper.

So picking the 10 stocks with the highest yields is a classic value, or bargain-hunting, strategy. But it's difficult to put into practice; thus, the search for new wrinkles.

The first was the Dow Five: Find the 10 Dow stocks with the highest yields. Buy the five with the lowest prices. Repeat each year. Next, the Gardner came up with the Foolish Four: Drop the lowest-priced stock in the Dow Five (on the theory that it is in serious trouble), double-up on the second-lowest-priced and buy the third, fourth and fifth stocks.

Now they have revised it, to reduce risk. You still buy four stocks, but double-up on none. You drop No. 1 only if it is both the highest-yielding stock and the lowest-priced. Otherwise, simply buy the four lowest-priced stocks.

I have never been fond of the low-priced formulas, since I can't see a good rationale for them. Still, the high returns are undeniable. Last month, Ann Coleman of the Motley Fool ana-

lyzed various Dow systems over the past 25 years. Against a benchmark of the full Dow's annual average return of 13.6 percent, she found that the Dogs returned 17.4 percent, the Dow Five returned 19.4 percent, the original Foolish Four returned 23.2 percent and the new, lower-risk Foolish Four returned 21.9 percent.

So far this year, none of the systems is beating the S&P, and only the Dow Five and the original Foolish Four are beating the full Dow.

One of the charms of these Dow systems is that you can start whenever you want, as long as you make adjustments each year. The Motley Fool runs a regularly updated list of high-yielders, so that investors can begin at will.

On Nov. 24, the Dogs were: J.P. Morgan & Co., Chevron Corp., Philip Morris Cos., General Motors Corp., Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co., Caterpillar Inc., DuPont Co., Eastman Kodak Co., International Paper Co. and Exxon Corp.

The Dow Five are International Paper, Caterpillar, Philip Morris, DuPont and Exxon. The Foolish Four (old version) drops IP and doubles-up on Cat. The Foolish Four (new version) drops Exxon.

Now, let's move on to Mr. Lee's system, called "Tromping the Dow." Each month, Mr. Lee, a Smith Barney vice president, analyzes the 30 Dow stocks according to a formula that relates a company's market price to its return on equity (in other words, how productively it uses stockholders' money). The system generates a target price for purchase and another for sale.

His back-testing, from 1973 to 1997, found that the system produced average annual returns of 26.7 percent, compared with 13.0 percent for the full Dow. Other analysts have found the system works with all stocks, but Mr. Lee finds the Dow to be a big enough universe.

What makes the system attractive is that it does not require selling and real-locating the portfolio every year. Mr. Lee, who started his system in 1991, currently owns 16 Dow stocks. At the start of this year, he bought Kodak and Aluminum Co. of America, up 24 percent and 11 percent, respectively. He added Philip Morris in May, when it was \$37.68 (it's now about \$58); Good-year Tire & Rubber Co. in August at \$64.50 (now about \$57); and J.P. Morgan on Oct. 6 at \$79.88 (now about \$112). He also sold Merck & Co., his first sale in seven years.

"What I do," Mr. Lee said, "is buy cheap and allow stocks to grow." That is good advice, with or without a system.

Washington Post Service

Higher level hirings

happen through

THE INTERMARKET

If you're looking for a top position, or indeed looking to fill one, look no further than the Intermarket's Recruitment Section on Mondays. It's where the world's headhunters hunt and internationally minded people look for top opportunities. Where better could like minds meet?

A great deal happens at The Intermarket.
Call Sarah Wershof on +44 171 420 0348

Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

The data in the list above is the name supplied by the fund groups to Standard & Poor's Mifcoral SA. It is collected and reformatted into the list before being transmitted to the HT. Standard & Poor's Mifcoral and the HT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the data of the performance of funds of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for any loss, the data of Fund Groups in any manner. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the HT or Standard & Poor's Mifcoral to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fail as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent advisor before investing.

هكذا من الأرض

MASTER GEOGRAPHIC



JAEGER-LECOULTRE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CATALOGUE
TEL. (+41) 21 845 02 02

SPORTS

Vikes' Hungry Offense Carves Up the Cowboys

With All the Trimmings, It's a 46-36 Feast

By Timothy W. Smith
New York Times Service

DALLAS — In the early 1990s, the Dallas Cowboys built a Super Bowl championship team around a cadre of offensive stars — a shifty running back, a sure-handed possession receiver, a poised quarterback — plus a massive and powerful offensive line and a punishing defense.

The offensive philosophy embraced all the conventional notions of pro football: ball control and a balanced attack.

But the Minnesota Vikings blew into Texas Stadium on Thursday with an offense that turned most of those notions on their head and beat the Cowboys, 46-36.

Ball control. Forget about it. Why not score on possessions of three minutes or less if you can score five or more touchdowns a game? Possession receivers. Yeah, right. If the possession is at the end of a 50-yard drive and culminates with a point after attempt.

Welcome to the new millennium. And what better way to usher in the new era than having a wonderful receiver like Randy Moss, who caught three passes Thursday and all three were for touchdowns of more than 50 yards.

Cris Carter added a 54-yard touchdown reception and Leroy Hood had a 50-yard touchdown run as the Vikings strung their stuff.

The most anticipated matchup of the afternoon — between Dallas's brilliant cornerback, Deion Sanders, and Minnesota's sensational rookie receiver, Moss — never materialized because Sanders was staring in his own version of "My Left Foot." It's the story of a fleet-footed NFL cornerback with a badly sprained big toe on his left foot that prevents him from running.

Without Sanders, Moss put on his own show. After one quarter, he had caught two passes for 107 yards and two touchdowns, with a 54-yard touchdown reception by Carter sandwiched between them.

Moss' first touchdown reception came on a 51-yard pass from quarterback Randall Cunningham off a flea-flicker play. His second one was on a 56-yard pass from Cunningham. The touchdown also put the Vikings ahead by 21-6 with 2 minutes 41 seconds to play in the first quarter. The Vikings looked like a runaway train.

But then came a slight derailment. The Vikings lost one component of their high-powered offense in the second quarter when Robert Smith sprained his right knee and did not return. Without the threat of Smith in the backfield,

Vikings' offense lost some steam.

It was a temporary setback. The Cowboys were able to deploy some well-timed blitzes, putting extra pressure on Cunningham and slowing the Vikings in the second quarter.

The Vikings also hurt themselves on foolish penalties during big returns on special teams in the first half. They were penalized twice, for 166 yards, on two returns by David Palmer — one wiped out a 90-yard touchdown return.

The Cowboys displayed their own big-play capability with a 67-yard touchdown pass from Troy Aikman to receiver Patrick Jefferson, but the 2-point conversion failed. After a 45-yard field goal by Gary Anderson with 16 seconds to play in the half, Minnesota took a 24-12 lead into the locker room.

The Cowboys opened the second half with an 11-play, 76-yard drive that was capped by a 22-yard run by Emmitt Smith to help make it 24-19 Vikings.

But on Minnesota's first possession of the third quarter, the Vikings went back into quick-strike mode, throwing deep to Moss and getting a pass-interference call against Dallas safety Kenny Wheaton. The 55-yard play gave Minnesota the ball at the Cowboys' 12 and, on the next play, Hood, who replaced Robert Smith, ran the ball in for a touchdown. The Vikings were ahead, 32-19, with less than a quarter and a half to play.



Cowboys' cornerback Kevin Smith being upended by Vikings' wide receiver Matthew Hatchette in second-quarter Thanksgiving Day action.

Lions Win in OT After Coin-Flip Flap

The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Michigan — Maybe the referee made a mistake. Maybe the Detroit Lions did.

All that's known for sure is that a game of X's and O's came down to heads or tails.

In a Thanksgiving Day contest marked by a bizarre coin flip to start an overtime period, the Detroit Lions escaped with a 19-16 victory over the Steelers on a 42-yard field goal by Jason Hanson, 2:52 into the extra period Thursday.

On the midpoint coin flip, Jerome Bettis of Pittsburgh said he called tails. But the referee, Phil Luckett, said after the game that Bettis called "heads-tails," and that he went with the first thing he heard.

"I did not say 'heads-tails,'" Bettis said. "That is a lie. That's a bald-faced lie."

A Detroit cornerback, Robert Bailey, who was not part of the coin toss, said he heard Bettis call "heads" while a team-

mate, Camell Lake, called another.

"To me, it sounded like one guy called heads and one guy called tails," Bailey said. "That way, no matter what happens, you can argue. It's an old trick."

In any event, the Steelers kicked off and never saw the ball again.

"I'm not saying we lost the game because of the officials," the Steelers' coach, Bill Cowher, said. "But it's a shame that this is the center of focus after a game like that."

Earlier, two controversial calls led to the first of Norm Johnson's two first-quarter field goals for Pittsburgh (7-5). But clearly, the biggest disputed call came at the start of overtime, giving the Lions (5-7) the right to receive.

"I've never seen anything as blatant as that," Lake said. "I even looked at the Lions and they were like, 'Wow.' They didn't say anything because they wanted the ball. The ref made a bad decision."

After a 21-yard runback by Terry Fair, the Lions went 41 yards in seven

plays, keyed by a 28-yard pass from Charlie Batch to Herman Moore and a face-mask call against Chris Oldham. After Barry Sanders was stopped for no gain on second down, the Lions elected to go for the field goal on third down.

"This game was everything rolled into one: Thanksgiving and the Steelers and a great win," said Batch, who grew up in Homestead, Pennsylvania, about 10 minutes from Three Rivers Stadium.

Sanders gained just 33 yards on 20 carries but still became just the second back in NFL history to rush for more than 15,000 yards. He now has 15,003 and trails only Walter Payton, who holds the record with 16,726 yards.

Johnson, who had field goals of 30 and 38 yards in the second quarter, capped a 74-yard, 15-play drive with a 25-yarder to tie it, 16-16, with one second remaining in regulation.

It was a big loss for the Steelers, who started the day one game behind Jacksonville in the AFC Central.

Falcons Flying High

Rams Lack Power to Shoot Them Down

By Mike Freeman
New York Times Service

Falcons (9-2) at Rams (3-8) The Falcons are no longer worrying about winning the NFC West. They see the San Francisco 49ers in their rear-view mirror. The Falcons are looking at the bigger picture, and their eyes

NFL MATCHUPS

are turned toward Minnesota. There is a chance, albeit slight, that Atlanta could get the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs if the Vikings slip. Falcons, 35-7.

Cardinals (6-5) at Chiefs (4-7) Arizona is ahead of where most thought the team would be this season because Jake Plummer is playing unbelievable football. He has a 96.2 passer rating in his previous four games. He will have a tough time this week because the Chiefs have the second-best pass defense in the league. But because Kansas City is reeling so badly now, the Cardinals win a close one on the road. Prediction: Cardinals, 27-24.

Packers (8-3) at Jets (7-4) Coach Bill Parcells has probably spent the past few days yelling at the Jets from sunrise to sunset, trying to imprint on their brains that Carolina is dangerous. The only true danger on the Panthers is linebacker Kevin Greene, who is tied for the league lead in sacks with 14. He'll do some damage. Jets, 28-17.

Cowboys (2-9) at Ravens (4-7) The kind of year Peyton Manning is having is scary. He's a rookie quarterback, and unlike many rookie quarterbacks he has taken every snap. His streak of a touchdown pass in every game this year is the most by a rookie since Joe Namath in 1965. But Manning can't play safety or linebacker or defensive end. Ravens, 21-14.

Jaguars (8-3) at Bengals (2-9) Blowout city. The Jaguars are not happy campers after losing to Pittsburgh last week. Jacksonville will crank up its running attack, and Mark Brunell will throw for over 300 yards. Jaguars, 28-0.

Buccaneers (4-7) at Bears (3-8) The last time Tampa Bay was at Chicago, the Bears won by six points off two Buccaneers fumbles. This season, Chicago has recovered 12 fumbles, the third-best performance in the NFL. Erik Kramer isn't starting — he's being replaced by the backup, Moses Moreno — but the Bears are going to run the ball. Chicago, 15-9.

Bills (7-4) at Patriots (6-5) How this game turns out depends on the index

finger of Drew Bledsoe. The quarterback has two slight fractures but Bledsoe says he can play; he's listed as questionable. If he plays, the Patriots win. Doug Flutie is the X-factor, as he's coming home and could be pumped up. Patriots, 17-16.

Oilers (6-5) at Seahawks (4-6) The key for Seattle is stopping the running back Eddie George. The Seahawks have 41 sacks, but pass rushing isn't the key, run stopping is. George already has 1,025 yards rushing and should add on about 100 more. Oilers, 19-14.

Saints (5-6) at Dolphins (7-4) Jimmy Johnson's Miami team is coming off a crushing loss to New England in the Monday night game. And the Saints' quarterback, Kerry Collins, is beginning to look like the franchise quarterback he was supposed to be in Carolina. Saints, 13-12.

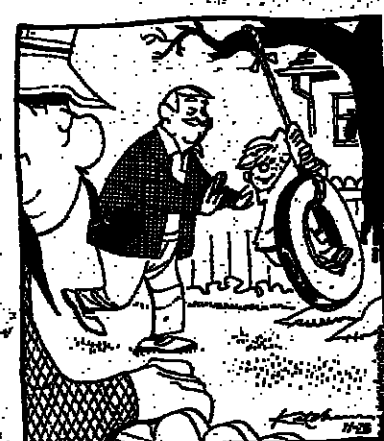
Eagles (2-9) at Packers (7-4) Blowout city. Part II. Some Minnesota coaches felt that the Packers' coach, Mike Holmgren, was overconfident before his game with the Vikings. The Packers lost by two touchdowns. Holmgren had better not be cocky this week, no matter how bad the Eagles are. And they're pretty bad. Packers, 28-10.

Raiders (2-9) at Raiders (7-4) The Raiders' quarterback, Donald Hollas, may not be a pretty thrower or the best player in the league. But he is 4-1 as a starter, his only loss coming to undefeated Denver. Not bad. Washington showed a lot of guts in coming back against Arizona. But the team must be drained. That was a long game, and it has been a long season. Raiders, 30-18.

Broncos (11-0) at Chargers (5-6) Denver can clinch the AFC West with a victory or an Oakland loss. But they'll win the division, either this week or next. But that of course is not the story with this team — whether they can go undefeated is. They won't, and this is the reason. The Broncos look unbeatable, especially early in the game, when they have outscored opponents in the first quarter by 104 points. But if the Chargers can weather the storm early, and they will, they'll be in the ball game. Chargers, 24-23.

Giants (4-7) at 49ers (8-3) The only chance the Giants have of winning this game is if they open up the offense. That's what a vastly outmanned New Orleans team did against the 49ers last week, and they made a game of it. Defensively it was the Giants are in trouble. 49ers, 30-21.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HE AND GRANDPA FEEL LIKE A COUPLE OF SPRING CHICKENS! HOW 'BOUT YOU, MR. WILCOX?"



LE PETIT FUTE PARIS U.S. vient de paraître

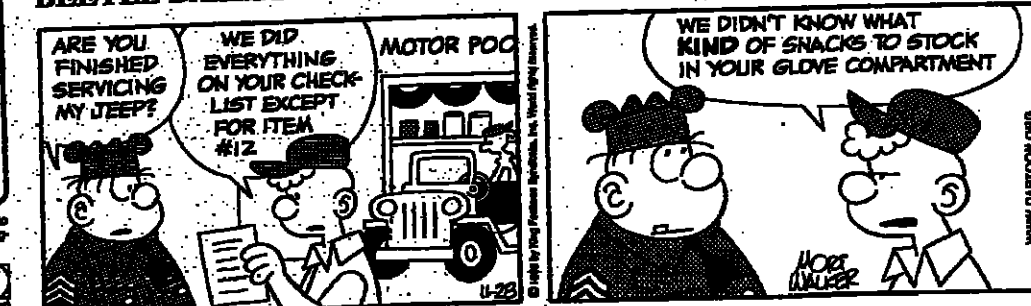
PEANUTS



GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



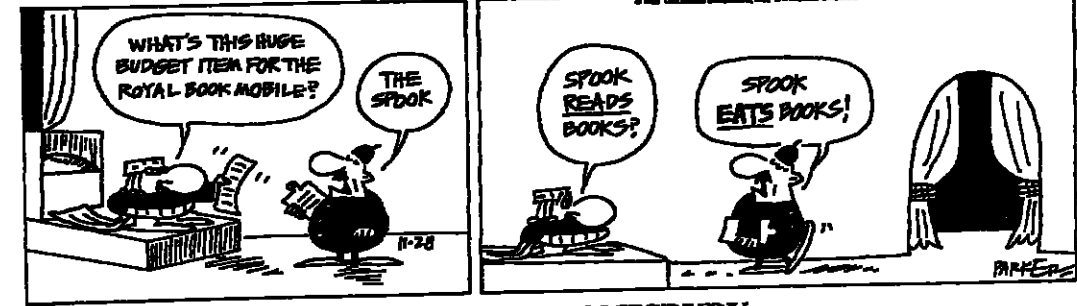
BLONDIE



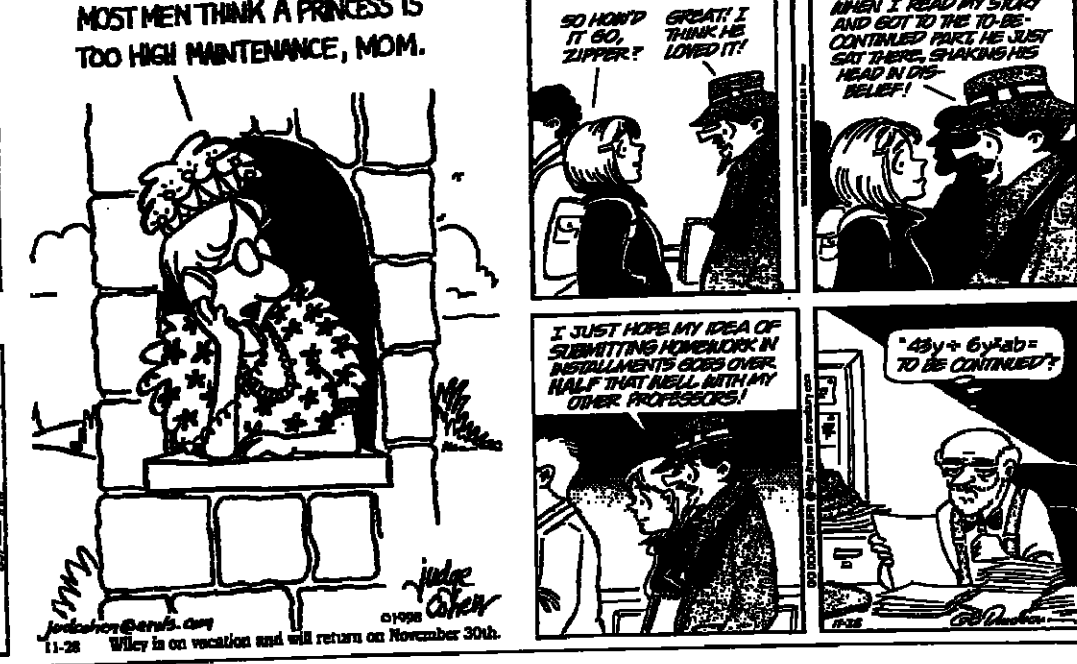
CALVIN AND HOBBS



WIZARD of ID



NON SEQUITUR



DOONESBURY



LIVE - **Tennis ATP Tour**
World Championship - Hannover
tune in today 16:00 (CET)
tune in tomorrow 21:00 (CET)

EUROSPORT

Eurosport, Europe's No.1 Sports TV Channel, available on cable and satellite

DAVE BARRY

How to Avoid Eels

MIAMI — Today's culinary topic is: How to make sushi. I happen to be an expert on this topic because I recently put in a stint as a chef at an actual sushi restaurant. (One of the things you learn, as a sushi chef, is how to put in a stint.)

Before I give you the details, I should explain, for the benefit of those of you who live in remote wilderness regions such as Iowa, what sushi is. Basically, it is a type of cuisine developed by the Japanese as part of an ancient tradition of seeing what is the scariest thing they can get you to eat raw.

The way they do this, they start out by serving you a nice, nonthreatening piece of fish, from which all the identifying fish parts have been removed. This fish is safe to eat and tasty. But the trick is that it's served with a green condiment called "wasabi," which is the Japanese word for "nuclear horseradish."

If you put more than two wasabi molecules on your sushi and eat it, your hair will burst into flames. So after consuming some wasabi, you naturally order a cool, refreshing Japanese beer to pour on your head and perhaps, since you have the bottle in your hand anyway, wet your whistle with it. The result is that your judgment becomes impaired, which is when they start trying to get you to eat prank food, such as sea urchin eggs. Sea urchins are vicious, golf-ball-shaped, poison-spined sea creatures whose sole ecological purpose is to ruin your tropical vacation by deliberately not getting out of your way when you are wading barefoot. If you eat the eggs of this animal, and fail to chew them thoroughly, you could develop an alarming medical condition that doctors call "baby sea urchins walking around inside your body poking holes in your spleen."

Other prank foods that they will try to get you to eat at sushi bars include eels, clam parts, jellyfish, tentacles with flagrant suckers, and shrimps with their eyeballs still waving around on stalks. If you eat those, the waiter will become brazen and start bringing out chunks of coral and live electric eels. My point is that, in a sushi restaurant, you must watch what you eat. (This is exactly what "The Star-Spangled Banner" is referring to when it says "o'er the clam parts we watched.")

Despite this, I happen to be a big fan of nonprank sushi. And so when Bok An, the proprietor of Sakura, my local sushi restaurant in Coral Gables, Florida, invited me to be a guest sushi chef, I enthusiastically answered: "No!" I was afraid that I'd have to touch an eel. I am 51 years old, and I did not get this far by touching eels.

But Bok assured me that we would stick to basic fish species such as tuna, salmon and cucumber. And thus I found myself one Tuesday night, wearing a samurai-style headband and standing behind the sushi bar, bleating in perfectly with the other sushi chefs, except that my headband was actually the belt of my bathrobe.

Bok stood next to me and prepared various sushi items, and I attempted to imitate him. Here's the recipe: You start with a little rectangle made of dried seaweed. Then you pick up a glob of special sticky rice and spread it evenly on the seaweed. At least Bok did. The majority of my rice remained firmly stuck to my hands and started migrating to other parts of my body. I may have to have it removed surgically.

Next, you cut up your ingredients, using a lethal-looking, extremely sharp sushi knife that causes professional sushi chefs to become very nervous when it is being wielded by a professional humor columnist. Then you put these ingredients on the rice and execute the secret sushi-rolling technique, which is difficult to describe in English words, as we can see by this actual transcript of Bok explaining it to me: "O.K., you go like this, Boom! Then you go, Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The thing was, when Bok went boom, he produced this attractive, appetizing cylinder of sushi. Whereas when I went boom, I produced this mutant food unit leaking random seafood parts. I also had a problem with my sizing: Sushi rolls are supposed to be small, bite-size morsels; mine were more along the lines of seaweed-covered hams.

But I kept trying. Remember the movie "Karate Kid," where the mean bully beats up Ralph Macchio, but then Ralph studies karate under Mr. Miyagi, and then finally, in the big tournament, with everybody watching, Ralph stuns the bully by rolling a reasonably tight cucumber roll? Well, that's what I did. In fact, I may have a knack for it. So if one day you walk into a Japanese restaurant, and you see, standing behind the sushi bar, what appears to be a man-size blob of rice wearing a blue bathrobe belt on its head, feel free to say hi. But keep your distance if I'm holding a knife.

©1998, The Miami Herald

Distributed by Tribune Media Services Inc.



(put on a happy face)

and use AT&T DirectSM Service. With the world's most powerful network, you get fast, clear, reliable connections from anywhere. Plus you'll always have the option of an operator who speaks your language. All it takes is your AT&T Calling Card or credit card, and you're well on your way. So smile.

Steps to follow for easy calling worldwide:

1. Just dial the AT&T Access Number for the country you are calling from.
2. Dial the phone number you're calling.
3. Dial your card number.



AT&T Access Numbers			
Austria	022-903-011	Greece	00-200-1311
Belgium	0-800-100-10	Ireland	1-800-550-000
Canada	905-420-1011	Israel	1-800-94-9494
France	0-800-99-0011	Italy	02-77-1011
Germany	0130-0010	Netherlands	020-022-1111
		Russia	00-000-0000
		Spain	900-99-0011
		Sweden	020-795-611
		Switzerland	000-99-0011
		United Kingdom	0-800-99-0011
		United States	1-800-99-0011

For access numbers not listed above, ask any operator for AT&T Direct Service, or visit our Web site at: www.att.com/traveler



It's all within your reach.

Credit card calling subject to availability. Payment terms subject to your credit card agreement. Bold-faced countries permit country-to-country calling outside the U.S. Collect calling is available to the U.S. only. Country-to-country rates consist of the cost of a call to the U.S. plus an additional charge based on the country you are calling. You can call the U.S. from all countries listed above. Pay phone deposit. A limited availability. Calling available to most countries. Public phones require local coin payment during the call. *Dial "02" first, outside Cuba. Additional charges apply outside Moscow. U.S. U.K. access number in N. Ireland. *If call does not complete, use 0800-013-0111. ©1998 AT&T

Biography Refashions Duras's 'Heroic' Stature

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — As writers often do, Marguerite Duras used her life as raw material for her novels. More unusually, her literature then took over her life to the point that a fictional character called Marguerite Duras assumed control. The real Duras may have written her books, but increasingly she lived in an imaginary world of her own making. Unless, of course, she was merely playingacting, which was possible.

Either way, she framed the basic question — Who was Marguerite Duras? — that confronted Laure Adler when she set out to write the first biography of Duras published in France since her death at 81 in March 1996. Not that Duras thought the question worth exploring. Her biography, she said, already existed in her fiction. Unless she had something to hide, which proved to be the case.

Certainly, on the sensitive topic of her response to Germany's occupation of France in World War II, Duras portrayed — and perhaps believed — herself to have been more heroic than the record suggests. She remembered her time in the Resistance and "forgot" her earlier work with the Germans. And it was far from the only occasion when her memory was selective.

"By the end of her life, she believed in the legend that she had invented of her life," said Adler, 48, a historian who now works as an editor at a French publishing house. "She hid all the clues to her life, but with sincerity. She simply did not want to remember certain things. In fact, she no longer knew who she really was. Everything she created in her books became truer than the life she had really lived."

During seven years of research and writing, then, it was Adler's task to separate not lies from truth, but fantasy from reality. For two years, she was able to listen to and interrogate Duras, who by then was resigned to the biography.

"At times, I thought I was going

crazy," Adler recalled during an interview. "If I had known it would be that difficult, that she would follow me night and day, even in my dreams, I would not have embarked on the project. But once I had started, I could not stop. I had to reach my destination, which was to find out if Marguerite Duras truly existed as a woman or was the legend she had created."

What helped keep her going was a strong emotional bond established with her subject in the late 1970s. At the time, disconsolate over the loss of a child at birth, Adler stumbled across Duras's novel "The Sea Wall," which she said gave her "the will to live." She wrote to Duras to thank her and a friendship was born.

Until then, before Duras became a best-selling author with "The Lover" in 1982, Adler had read none of her books. "Duras was very loved by a very small number of loyal fans who were almost like a sect," Adler said. "I always had the impression that she was very distant, very complicated and very narcissistic."

But by the time she decided to write the biography, Adler felt she knew her subject well. Yet when she began her research by reading all of Duras's books in chronological order, starting with "Les Impudents," she encountered various styles and different worlds, "the many writers who were Marguerite Duras," as she put it.

She traveled to Vietnam, where Duras was born and where her teenage romance with an older man, recounted in "The Lover," took place. There Adler met people who had known not only the lover ("who was not as handsome as she described him," Adler noted), but also Duras, her mother and older brother. From this she assembled a melancholic picture of the young Duras.

"She lived an almost nursery-like childhood, her father dead, without the love of her mother, disdained, humiliated, frequently beaten by her mother and brother," Adler said. "None of this appears in her books, but I think it is one of the



Marguerite Duras in her Paris apartment in 1990.

keys to understanding her work. She wrote in order to suffer less, to purge the pain and suffering she had known."

Certainly, when she moved to Paris to study law and political science at 18, Duras felt liberated. She had a considerable sexual appetite, Adler notes in her French-language biography, "Marguerite Duras," and she moved comfortably in leftist intellectual circles. After graduation from the Sorbonne, she married the writer Robert Antelme and found work as a secretary in the

Ministry of Colonies, staying there for a year after Germany occupied France in 1940.

In uncovering what she calls Duras's ambiguous response to the occupation, Adler also broke new ground. In her 1985 book, "La Douleur," later published in the United States as "The War," Duras portrays herself as part of a Resistance group headed by Francois Mitterrand, France's president from 1981 to 1995. But like Mitterrand, who worked for the collaborationist Vichy regime in 1941

and 1942, Duras joined the Resistance only in mid-1943. More significant, for one year beginning in July 1942, Adler recounts, Duras worked for the Book Organization Commission as secretary of the bureau that controlled paper supplies and, as such, determined which books were published or censored. Many authors were banned, but others depended on the whims and tastes of the book commission.

Adler leaves open the question of whether, by working under German orders, Duras was a collaborator, but she was disturbed by the novelist's unwillingness to discuss the issue. "Marguerite waved away with her hand a question that irritated her," she writes.

Another strange episode occurred in the summer of 1944 when Antelme was arrested for work in the Resistance and, in hopes of obtaining her husband's release, Duras befriended Charles Delval, a Frenchman working with the Gestapo. Before Antelme was deported to Germany (he survived the war), Duras and Delval were seen together so often that there was speculation that they were having an affair.

Yet after Paris was liberated in August 1944, Delval was seized and interrogated by Mitterrand's Resistance group. In "La Douleur," Duras describes how she tortured him, a fact that she later repeated in interviews, although no one apparently witnessed her doing so.

So, Adler was asked, does she like Duras less now that she knows her better?

"No, a lot more," she said without hesitation. "There were times when I cried with rage at her violence, her egotism, her spitefulness. I didn't like her ambiguity in the war. And I couldn't stand the way she proclaimed herself to be a genius. But she was also immensely courageous because she took the risk of looking deep inside herself. She knew she was self-destructive, but her writing saved her from madness. And that's what makes her a great writer. In a memorably pure style, she speaks to us all."

PEOPLE

THE Canadian singer Celine Dion has sued a French tabloid for violation of privacy for an article that suggested she was unable to have a child. Dion's lawyer told a court in Toulouse that Voici, a weekly tabloid, had violated his client's privacy and "undermined her husband's dignity." A lawyer for Voici told the court that the article, published in July, was based on a biography about Dion published in the United States, which the singer never contested in court.

Works from the studio of Dora Maar, who was the inspiration and mistress of Pablo Picasso from 1936 to 1943, fetched 2.74 million francs (about \$480,000) at an auction in Paris. The sale brought to more than 212 million francs the amount realized from the sale of Maar's estate, with a third and final auction to be held on Dec. 7. The sum does not include the value of works donated by Maar's heirs in lieu of taxes to the Picasso museum in Paris. Items sold Thursday included a portrait of Pi-

casso by Maar, painted in 1936, which fetched 377,000 francs, more than nine times its estimated price of 40,000 francs. Two other oils with valuations of 40,000 to 60,000 francs were knocked down for 150,000 and 144,100 francs. Maar held on to mementos of her stormy affair with Picasso for more than half a century. The rare collection of oils, pastels, photographs, jewelry and valuable bric-a-brac came to light on her death at the age of 89 in July last year.

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles has named Lee Hendrix its new drawings curator. Hendrix, a scholar of Northern European prints and drawings, has been the associate curator of drawings at the Getty since 1989. She replaces Nicholas J.L. Turner, who left in September.

Miss Israel, a 19-year-old media student named Linor Abargil, was crowned Miss World in the Seychelles, defeating nine other finalists, from

Brazil, Chile, the Czech Republic, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Peru, South Africa and the United States. "I never felt so great in my whole life," she said. "Now I want to go and stay with my family and my boyfriend." In a bid to revive the 47-year-old contest's sagging image, the pageant this year discarded the traditional swimming costume parade; the 86 contestants were shown dancing in street wear and evening dresses.

Britain's 1970s glam-rock star Gary Glitter was committed for trial to face child-sex and pornography charges. The decision was made by magistrates in North Avon, in western England. No date for the trial has been set. The flamboyant singer was arrested last year as he returned from vacation in Cuba after police allegedly found pornographic pictures in his possession. He was charged with possessing indecent photographs of children, with assaulting girls under the age of 16 and four other sexual offenses.

World's Shift
Season for S
in the Region App

The T
Afghan C

AT&T

It's all within your reach.